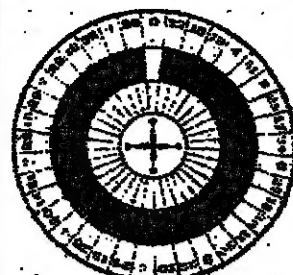


THE TIMES Tomorrow

The casino game
Return of the high
rollers: the state of the
game in Britain's casinos



Tibetan journey
A pilgrimage to the heart
of Tibet

Hot meals
Values look at the
microwave warm-up

British Council
What have TS Eliot and
the Think Tank in
common? George
Walden explains

Rugby
David Hands previews
Rugby's John Player Cup

ICI anger at fall in shares

The chairman of ICI, Mr John Harvey-Jones, angrily criticized the stock market for marking the group's shares lower despite a £560m surge in profits. The shares fell 16p to 376p after ICI reported profits of £619m for 1983 and an increased dividend.

Junta arrest

The former Commander of Argentina's Air Force, Brigadier Basilio Lami Dozo, became the third member to be arrested of the Junta which ordered the Falklands invasion.



Stronger pound

Sterling rose 1.15 cents to close at \$1.4623, its highest level since November 30, on foreign exchange markets made jittery by the flare-up in the Gulf war.

Cigarette tax

Health ministers are pressing Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, to increase the price of a packet of cigarettes by 20p in the Budget.

Crash inquest

A teenage girl who was one of six survivors of the Isles of Scilly helicopter crash told the inquest of her fight to keep alive in the sea.

Grenada appeal

A foreign legal team has appealed against the Grenadine courts' refusal to allow British lawyers to represent people accused of murdering Maurice Bishop.

Liberal hope

Liberals in Cheshire claim that they can win over enough Conservative voters by polling day next week to beat Mr Tony Benn in the by-election.

Leader page 13
Letters: On Scott Lithgow, from Professor J Pickett; Falklands, from Mr A Monk; animal experiments, from Mr G Chalmers.
Leading articles: French lorry dispute; Hongkong Civil liberties.
Features, pages 8, 9, 12
Why the church should return to the straight and narrow; French industrial violence, a matter of national temperament; David Watt on Britain's conflicting interests in South Africa.
Friday Page: Massage and the law; Spectrum: The Times Guide to the TIS primaries; Generating jobs pages 15-19
Special Report on successes and difficulties in creating work for young people
Obituary, page 14
Dr Claude Nicol, Miss Joan Liveridge

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French offer £160 per driver as blockade goes on

● A grant of 2,000 francs (£160) is being offered by the French Government as a first instalment to all lorry drivers trapped by the worsening road blockade

● High in the Italian Alps, stranded Britons demanded that Whitehall fly them home and hire guards for their marooned vehicles

● France hinted that it might use troops to clear the roads, but only as a last resort. Madame Edith Gresson, the French Foreign Trade Minister, said in London that the police were unable to cope

● Thousands of British holidaymakers face long delays this weekend. One coach operator is planning to bring passengers home by air and rail (Back page)

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The French Government announced yesterday that it has offered a grant of 2,000 francs (£160) as a first instalment in financial assistance to all lorry drivers, French and foreign, trapped in the Alps by the continuing dispute. It has also been in contact with insurance companies to try to persuade them to cover the cost of lost cargoes.

This latest development came as the situation became ever more confused, with dozens more blockades going up in some areas of France, while others were being taken down. Mr Ray Whitney, Under Secretary of State at the Foreign Office, had talks with French officials in Paris on the question of compensation for British drivers, and said afterwards: "We agreed we should keep in touch on this issue."

British Embassy officials said that there were more than 300 British lorries in the approach roads up to the Mont Blanc and Frejus tunnels on the French side of the border and about another 100 on the Italian side. Consulate officials were in direct contact with many of them, mainly giving information, comfort and advice, but also attending to some isolated specific needs such as money and medical care. Most drivers were carrying credit

cards and did not therefore have immediate cash problems. Sir John Fretwell, the British Ambassador, said that reports indicated that while there may initially have been some sympathy for the French lorry drivers, most British drivers were now growing increasingly exasperated by the cold and discomfort and wanted to get home.

The main road out of Paris to Charles de Gaulle airport remained blocked yesterday and Mr Whitney, along with most other air passengers, was obliged to take the express metro to the airport to catch his flight back to London. Other flows in by helicopter at a cost of 4,800 francs for a round trip for four.

Police, out in force in the Greater Paris area, managed to keep the *Peripherique* round the capital free from blockades by banning all articulated lorries, and also succeeded in preventing a threatened total blockade of the international Rungis meat and vegetable market to the south of the city.

The main black spots remained the Nord-Pas de Calais region, which includes the Channel ports of Dunkerque, Calais, and Boulogne; the Rhone-Alps area,

where the trouble first began; the Marseilles area, where new blockades went up; Lorraine; and the northeastern suburbs of Paris. In virtually all areas, some traffic is now being allowed to filter through, however.

Fifteen foreign lorries, including some British, were reported to have been allowed through the blockade at Cluses on the road up to the Mont Blanc tunnel. French lorries carrying heating fuel, petrol, and food provisions destined for the ski resorts in the Chamonix valley were also being allowed through.

In Paris the Government remained firm, refusing to give in to pressure for the immediate resumption of negotiations, but repeating its readiness to reopen talks on March 1, given a "gesture of goodwill" by the lorry drivers.

The four ministers most immediately concerned are now meeting twice daily to discuss the dispute which is starting to have a serious effect on the economic activities and the supply of provisions in some areas, as well as traffic flows.

M. Jacques Delors, the Finance Minister who presided over yesterday's emergency ministerial meetings in the absence of M. Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, said that

Stranded British lorry drivers demand to be flown home

From Patricia Clough, Courmayeur

Tension peaked explosively 5,000 feet up in the Italian Alps yesterday as stranded British lorry drivers demanded that the British Government fly them home and hire guards for their marooned vehicles. Hundreds of British schoolchildren skidding happily down the sun-drenched slopes at Courmayeur risked being stranded on the wrong side of the Channel this weekend as the French drivers' blockade of roads and ports dragged on with no end in sight.

Twenty-two British drivers blocked at the Italian end of the Mont Blanc tunnel met Mr Cyril Cole, the British consul in Milan, at Courmayeur police station and demanded to be flown home and to have their lorries guarded until the blockade is over.

Mr Gordon Pirie, a spokesman for the consulate said that they were in touch with the Foreign Office to see if this could be done. But those lorry drivers who could not pay their own fare home would need to sign an undertaking that they would reimburse the Government later on, he said.

"Why shouldn't the Government pay to get us out of this jam," exploded Mr Giuseppe Di

Gennaro, a British owner driver from Bedford. "It's not our fault we are here."

"They spend millions on the war in the Falklands. Why won't they spend anything on us," asked Mr Dave Smith of Liverpool.

Resentment was building up fast among the 40 or so British drivers kicking their heels on the high mountain road leading to the tunnel as days dragged past, money got scarcer and the Government found itself in a bawling with four customs men.

"If it goes on much longer there will be trouble," Mr Les Mullin, of Selby Bridge in Yorkshire said. "It would only take a silly incident to start something off."

Nerves have already begun to fray. A misunderstood joke, a sharp dig in the ribs from an Italian customs officer and Mr Tony Covey, aged 28, of Southampton found himself in a brawl with four customs men.

"It ended up with a gun pointed at my head and handcuffs on my wrists," he said. "A session with an interpreter in the customs chief's office cleared the air but the same thing could happen again at any moment."

Bad feelings between British and French drivers are rising to the surface. The British drivers recall that during their strike in Britain French drivers were allowed to come and go at will while now they were being penalized by the French action.

"I think we should hit back," Mr Di Gennaro said. "We should ban them from England."

French lorry drivers howled down British colleagues being interviewed, for Belgian television. "We said the blockade was our concern, they said it was and so on," Mr Mullin said. The television had to scrap the recording.

The Italian authorities are providing the drivers with two free hot meals a day - "We owe a lot to the locals" - but the British accused the French of appropriating all the other free food and clean clothing being distributed along the road.

"There is never anything left for us," Among a group of a dozen drivers eating porridge in a local restaurant the only thought was to get out. "We can't continue in these conditions much longer," said Mr Mullin, who has been stranded by the blockade or customs go slow for three weeks.

Israeli planes pound Lebanon

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Israeli bombers yesterday pounded targets deep inside Lebanon for the third time this week, as part of a new, intensified strategy aimed at preventing the reestablishment of a Palestinian military infrastructure in areas abandoned by the Israeli Army when it retreated south last year to the Awali river.

It is understood that the bombing sorties will continue, especially in the area of Bhamdoun, the town 12 miles south-east of Beirut hit again yesterday, where the Israeli Army claims that large numbers of militant Palestinians from various groups have established

bases and arms dumps in abandoned buildings.

Israel's military command said that two buildings "used as terrorist headquarters and bases" and a 130mm artillery position were hit in yesterday's noon attack. The controversial strategy has been approved by the Cabinet and is intended to continue, despite proposals now under consideration for a secondary withdrawal to a line further south than the Awali.

"Whenever we have a good target, we will attack it," explained one Israeli source.

The Israelis have acknowledged for the first time that a number of innocent workmen from Bangladesh were killed or

wounded when their jets attacked a warehouse near the coastal town of Damour on Sunday. The Israelis claim that the workers (whom they suggest were being used as "sweated labour" by a Lebanese employer) were sharing the large building with members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC).

Combined with Monday's massive show of Israeli armour on roads north of the Awali, the air attacks are an attempt physically to prevent Palestinian reinforcement, and to deliver a sharp warning to Druze militiamen not to shelter

Continued on page 6, col 2

Three shipyards bid to replace Sir Galahad

Three British state-owned shipyards, Cammell Laird at Birkenhead, Swan Hunter on the Tyne and Harland and Wolff in Belfast are lining up to win what, in emotional terms, will be the most important contract for years - the replacement for the 5,600-ton Sir Galahad landing ship. The vessel will cost between £30m and £40m.

By David Hewson

Mr Aubrey Singer, the managing director of BBC Television, left the corporation yesterday and was replaced by Mr Bill Cotton, who has been responsible for its satellite broadcasting project.

BBC sources denied that the departure of Mr Singer after 35 years with the corporation had anything to do with its recent dismal audience ratings and its battle for an increase in the licence fee next year.

However, the BBC described Mr Cotton, a former head of BBC 1 and light entertainment, as a man with a popular eye who will take a sharp look at the present schedules.

Mr Singer, aged 55, son of

the late band leader Billy Cotton, joined the corporation as a freelance producer, and produced his father's popular variety shows. As head of light entertainment, he developed programmes like *Top of the Pops*, *Morcambe and Wise*, *Jim'll Fix It*, and the Michael Parkinson show.

Mr Singer, aged 58, who was appointed managing director of the television service two years ago, was instrumental in developing the BBC's reputation for science features. He started *Horizon*, *Tomorrow's World*, and *Man Alive*, and later, as controller of BBC2, commissioned *J. Galsworthy* and *Life on Earth*.



Mr Jack Hart (right), chairman of the GCHQ union committee, speaking to Mr Kinnoch as civil servants lobbied MPs at the Commons yesterday after a rally.

Thatcher rejects Cheltenham union options

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The Prime Minister last night gave an uncompromising rejection of trade union proposals to maintain membership at the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) and made it clear that she was convinced the proposed union ban would be accepted by almost all the 7,000 staff involved.

The GCHQ Civil Service unions responded immediately by calling on their 600,000 members to stage a half-day strike next Tuesday as a "demonstration of repugnance and anger" at Mrs Margaret Thatcher's stance in the meeting in Downing Street. The unions are urging members to attend lunchtime protest rallies and not to return to work in the afternoon.

Mrs Thatcher told the unions during an hour's meeting yesterday that she was not prepared to concede the principle of union membership at the secret communication bases and argued that to do so "could even put people's lives at risk".

Union negotiators emerged from the meeting shocked at the vehemence of the Prime Minister's remarks which they said were "deeply offensive". They are due to meet again today to plan further action beyond Tuesday's protest and an emergency meeting of the TUC's "inner cabinet", the finance and general purposes committee, is likely to be held on Monday to discuss the GCHQ crisis.

It was clear from the meeting in Downing Street that Mrs Thatcher was not prepared to countenance the presence of national trade unions at GCHQ. She argued that union membership carried an inherent conflict of loyalty. The maintenance of security and intelligence services came first, she told the unions.

Basque leader shot dead

The number three figure in the Basque Socialist Party and a leading candidate for Sunday's general elections in the autonomous region was assassinated yesterday at his home in San Sebastian by a hooded gunman immediately taken to be from ETA, the Basque separatist movement, (Richard Wigg writes).

Señor Enrique Casas, aged 47, an Andalusian-born physician and Senator in the Madrid Parliament was gunned down on the stairs of his home as he

was preparing to return to party headquarters after lunch.

The killing came as campaigning, which will end at midnight tonight, went into top gear in the Basque country. It provoked immediate reactions in the Madrid Parliament and Señor Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish Prime Minister, spoke immediately on learning of the killing by phone with Señor Carlos Cascajosa, the outgoing Chief Minister of the Basque autonomous government.

Yesterday's meeting of the board of governors also promoted Mr Alan Protheroe, the assistant director-general who will now deputise for Mr Milne. Mr Geoffrey Back, presently deputy director of finance, will succeed Mr Paul Hughes as director of finance.

Cabinet 'horror' at pit incident

By Kenneth Coaling

Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, yesterday expressed to Mr Ian MacGregor, the National Coal Board chairman, the "horror" he and Cabinet colleagues felt at the "appalling violence" shown to Mr MacGregor at Ellington colliery, Northumbria, on Wednesday.

After a visit to Mr MacGregor at the board headquarters in London, Mr Walker said he had come to express regret at what had happened and support for the way Mr MacGregor was trying to create a successful industry.

The Coal Board chairman was clearly upset at the way the incident had been reported. On television and in the papers he was shown lying stunned on the ground, after being shoved over by a crowd of miners protesting about the planned loss of 600 jobs at the nearby Bates colliery.

Yesterday Mr MacGregor waved his fist at reporters, crying: "You people want your heads examined... why don't you leave me alone?"

In the Commons, the Prime Minister called the incident "disgraceful". Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, accused her of "trying to make mischief out of a regrettable incident".

Northumbria police are preparing a report for the Home Office.

Before a fence collapsed, sending Mr MacGregor on to the ground, a man was seen grabbing the lapels of his jacket.

Yesterday, the man, Mr John Kall, aged 31, an underground worker, said he

Mr Kall Regret had no apology.

But told Mr MacGregor because he wanted to stop and talk.

"I have nothing to be ashamed of and there will be no apology from me", Mr Kall said. "I am sorry he got knocked over but it was the crowd, not me."

Mr MacGregor has written to thank Mr Kall. Mr Kinnock, a BBC reporter, who went to his aid when he was knocked down, said: "The behaviour of the man who confronted me was not typical of the people who work in the industry. It is a pity that a few headbangers can do so much harm to coal's reputation."

Tax rise for building societies

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Building societies face much higher tax bills and home buyers possibly a longer wait for mortgages, following a change in the way societies are taxed on their investment profits.

The change, announced yesterday by the Inland Revenue, was roundly condemned by building society chiefs. It could double the amount of tax societies pay on their investment profits, mainly from government stocks.

Investment profits previously were taxed at a maximum rate of 30 per cent. Profits on government stocks held for more than a year were free of tax. Now investment profits will be taxed at the special building society rate of 40 per cent.

Mr Richard Weir, secretary-general of the Building Societies Association, said: "This is an absolute bombshell."

The latest figures show that building societies paid £177m of tax in 1982. The new rules would have added £120m to their tax bill.

Mr Brian Phillips, general manager of finance at the Nationwide Building Society, said the move would reduce the amount of money available for mortgages.

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SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS

Teenager describes fight for survival after helicopter crash in sea

A teenager described yesterday how she helped to save Howard Goddard, aged 11, a fellow survivor of the Isles of Scilly helicopter disaster which claimed 20 lives last July.

Speaking in a barely audible whisper, Ellen Haslow, aged 16, recounted the minutes when she and five others struggled for survival in the sea off St Mary's. Two Isles of Scilly councillors and the two pilots of the British Airways helicopter, which crashed on the sea and no one had said anything, she said.

Mr Derrick Pepperell, the West Cornwall coroner, resuming yesterday's inquest into the 20 deaths, guided Miss Haslow through her evidence.

The coroner said that Howard Goddard, aged 12, was in difficulty because he could not swim very well. Miss Haslow said: "I swam to him and he hung on to me for a while. I got hold of a bag and managed to hold on to that."

Earlier, Miss Haslow of Oakthorpe, Leicestershire, whose parents, John and Marie, died in the crash, said that she was sitting about three seats back on the left of the helicopter.

She said that the helicopter was shrouded in fog. Before take-off she said she had been given no instructions by the steward

on what to do in the event of the helicopter coming down. They were all asked to put on seatbelts and this was checked by the steward. She said that she heard the steward tell someone that the aircraft was flying at about 100ft.

She said: "I think I looked out of the window. I could see the surface of the sea. I thought it was a bit low but I was not frightened. There was no warning before the helicopter hit the sea and no one had said anything, she said."

"I felt the helicopter hit the water. I still had my seatbelt on. The water came in from the front of the aircraft. I managed to undo the seatbelt and we then ended up standing on the roof because it was upside down, she said."

She "shot out" through a hole in the aircraft. "When I got to the surface there was thick fog. I could see about two metres."

She said she could see two of the other survivors, councillors Mrs Megan Smith and Mrs Lucille Langley-Williams, in the water. She then spotted Howard Goddard. She described how she swam over to him.

continued: "I heard someone shouting and it was the two pilots. The six of us ended up more or less together in two groups of three." She was with Captain Lawlor, and Howard Goddard before being rescued.

Earlier, Mr Robert Matthews, a senior inspector of the accident investigation branch of the Department of Transport, said that he believed the accident prevented any possibility of a distress signal being sent out.

The 20 who died were: Mr Ronald Goddard, aged 49, an insurance assessor, his wife, Ida, aged 47, and their children, David, aged 15, and Clare, aged 13, of Ickleton, Cambridgeshire; Mr David Fuller, aged 43, an orthopaedic surgeon, his wife Jean, aged 41, a doctor, and their three children Rachel, aged 15, Simon, aged 13, and Alison, aged 11, from Headington, Oxfordshire; Mr David Nye, aged 36, a journalist and his wife Susan, aged 37, and their three children, Sophie, aged 10, Susanah, aged nine, and Kyrstian, aged six, of Newick, Sussex; Mr John Haslow, aged 46, a colliery worker, and his wife Marie, aged 46, from Oakthorpe, Leicestershire; Mrs Ena Curson, aged 76, from Wisbech, Cambridgeshire; Dr Patricia Evans, aged 53, a consultant physician, from Essex; Mr Michael Sturgeon, aged 47, of Harrow, Middlesex; and Mr Robin Lander, aged 22, a British Airways cabin attendant, of Penzance, Cornwall.



Miss Hanslow arriving at the Guildhall, Penzance, for yesterday's inquest which was also attended by Mrs Langley-Williams (top), Captain Charlton (centre) and Captain Lawlor, who were among the six survivors.

'No right' for patients to be told every risk

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

Doctors are not obliged to inform patients of every single risk that an operation carries, the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday.

In a test judgment on a patient's right to information before consenting to surgery, Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, said that patients had a right to a real choice and to have the alternatives placed fairly before them.

Doctors should not play God, he said. The law could not stand idly by if, in an excess of paternalism, they denied patients such a choice, he said.

He ruled, however, that a surgeon who failed to inform a patient that an operation carried a small risk of damage to the spinal chord did not act negligently.

With two other judges he dismissed an appeal by Mrs Amy Sidaway, aged 73, who alleged negligence by the Bethlem Royal and Maudsley hospitals in south-east London in not warning her of the 1 per cent risk involved.

Mrs Sidaway, of East Dulwich, south London, sued the hospitals over the operation in 1974 in which her spinal chord was damaged. Negligence was denied.

She was left with severe impairment of movement on her right side and some ill effects on her left, and would have been awarded £67,000 agreed damages had she established liability.

Sir John said that a doctor fulfilled his duty to inform a patient if he acts in accordance with a practice rightly accepted and proper by a body of skilled and experienced medical men.

In appropriate cases, however, a judge would be entitled to reject a unanimous medical view if satisfied that it was manifestly wrong.

Law Report, page 24

'Other man' query over death of art student

From Our Correspondent
Nottingham

Counsel for the defence in the Susan Renhard murder trial yesterday referred the jury to the parable of the Good Samaritan.

In his final speech at Nottingham crown court, Mr Martin Thomas, QC, said that the Samaritan in this case was Mr Frederick Green, who found the body and summoned assistance. "But was he the second person to see the body or the third?" Mr Thomas asked the jury.

Mr Norman Smith, aged 18, the student accused of Miss Renhard's murder in a Peak District beauty spot, says that he left her still breathing. Mr Thomas asked the jury to consider the possibility that another person then came along and strangled her.

He mentioned Mr Takafuna Tanaka, aged 35, a Japanese courier who was in the vicinity at the time. Mr Thomas said that because both prosecution and defence considered Mr Tanaka an unreliable and untruthful witness he was not able to be called to give evidence.

Mr Thomas told the jury: "I am not prosecuting counsel against Mr Tanaka. I am not trying to present a case against him. You have been told that he was arrested and has been interviewed."

He added: "I accept there was no forensic evidence to connect him. But beyond that I do not accept anything."

Mr Smith, of Sunnyside Villas, Castleton, Derbyshire, pleads not guilty to murdering Miss Renhard, aged 21, an art student for West Hagley, Stourbridge, Worcestershire, on June 27, last year.

Mr Douglas Draycott QC, for the prosecution, described the theory of another man being involved as "rubbish".

The case continues today when the jury will retire.

Police study drink-drive case ruling

Magistrates at Basingstoke, in Hampshire, yesterday dismissed a drink-driving charge against a musician after it was alleged that he had used a large quantity of spirit of camphor on his lips and in his mouth to help him to play his trombone properly and that had an increased the reading of an intoximeter machine.

A Hampshire police spokesman said after the case: "The assistant chief constable, Mr Richard Stobart, has said that in circumstances such as these our first step is to examine the implications of the decision."

The court had heard that the musician Mr Robert Todd, of Mead Lane, Farnham, Surrey, had been playing for a band at Tidworth near Andover, where he had drunk four or five cans of lager. He had then fallen asleep while driving home and had been involved in an accident. Tests had showed that his body contained nearly three times the permitted amount.

Dr Christopher Chatfield, director of the Chatfield Applied Research Laboratories said he concluded after test that the drink consumed by Mr Todd "would not have enabled him to reach the legal limit."

Mr Todd, who pleaded not guilty, said the spirit deadened the lips, allowing him to play the trombone properly.

Low rates rises for London

Two London rates announced yesterday confirm that this year's average increases will be low. Conservative Westminster is to add only 1 per cent to its domestic ratepayers' bills and Camden which is Labour, is to increase household bills by just over 7 per cent. Both have benefited from the 7.5 per cent cut in the Greater London Council's rate.

Lady Porter, the leader of Westminster council, said the GLC's rates cut could have been bigger if it had not decided to increase its spending by £68m.

Bodies of couple found on beach

A couple whose bodies were washed up on a beach at Port Talbot, West Glamorgan, were named yesterday as Mr Patrick Garvey, aged 55, and his wife Emily, aged 53, who lived at Golden Avenue, near the beach.

The police were investigating a theory that Mr Garvey may have drowned trying to pull his wife from the sea. Neighbours said she had recently had hospital treatment for depression.

Doctors to test computer link

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The Department of Health is planning to provide computer terminals for 3,000 general practitioners to improve the reporting of adverse reactions to drugs and allow other experiments in new technology.

The one-year experimental project will initially speed up the reporting of side-effects, the Department of Health said yesterday. At present, doctors send in yellow cards when side-

effects are noticed, and their use has contributed to the withdrawal of about five drugs over the past two years.

About 13,000 yellow cards are sent in every year and the department's medicines division hopes the terminals will increase the number of reports to about 20,000 a year.

The computers will also be used for other experiments,

including providing doctors with information from the Prescription Pricing Authority on the number and cost of drugs they prescribe, after evidence that GPs can be persuaded to cut the cost of their prescribing if they have such information.

Computers can also be used to call in patients for routine procedures such as cervical smears or vaccinations, and can ease other administrative work.

Wife in fake death plot, murder trial told

A woman was involved in a "chilling" plot to fake her husband's death so that the couple could get £76,000 insurance money, a jury was told at Manchester Crown Court yesterday.

Mrs Valerie Mason, aged 22, lured an insurance salesman to their home in Ashton-in-Makerfield, Lancashire, on the pretext of wanting to talk about insurance.

Rose, QC, for the prosecution, said: "There, her husband beat him to death with a sash window weight."

Mrs Mason, the mother of two children, denies murdering David Moore.

Mr Rose said Mr Moore was chosen as the victim because he bore some resemblance to Mr Mason, who has already pleaded guilty to murder.

The case continues today.

Getty bid for Wilton art refused

By Frances Gibb

The Lord of Pembroke has been approached by dealers with a view to selling art treasures from his magnificent collection at Wilton House, Salisbury, to the Getty Museum in Malibu, California.

The approach to the owner of one of the top-ranking British collections is the latest to be prompted by the enormous spending power of the Getty Museum.

Lord Pembroke said yesterday that dealers had "put out feelers" to him, among others, to see if he was interested in selling a number of the masterpieces at Wilton. He emphasized that he was not prepared to sell.

One of the most important works at Wilton is "The Card Player", a painting by Lucas van Leyden (1491-1533), estimated to be worth about £3m.

The offer will increase pressure on the Government to take action to protect the owners of historic homes against the Getty spending power.

It coincides with the temporary stopping yesterday by the Minister for the Arts, Lord Gower, of an export licence for a Rubens drawing, "A Man in a Korean Costume", bought by Getty for £327,600. British museums have three months to try to match that price.

The Getty Museum has to spend £1m a week to retain its charitable status.



Mustique bound: The Duke and Duchess of Kent leaving Heathrow Airport yesterday for a holiday on the Caribbean island of Mustique. The Princess was wearing leather trousers and boots. Princess Margaret and her son Viscount Linley are already on holiday on the island.

Friend 'murdered couple'

A Hell's Angel accused of the murders of a young couple, claimed yesterday that they were killed while he was visiting his parents. Michael Bardell told a jury at Northampton Crown Court that his friend, Stephen Parkinson, killed them after borrowing his car and dropping him off at his parents' home. "When he picked me up again he told me he had killed them", he said. "I was at my parents' home."

Mr Bardell, aged 32, and Mr Parkinson, aged 23, both of Northampton, have denied murdering David Cox, aged 23, and his girlfriend Debbie Fallon, aged 19, whose bodies were found in Saley Forest near Northampton, last spring.

They have also pleaded not guilty to conspiring to murder another Hell's Angel, Mr Ian Turner.

The trial continues today.

Combating kerb crawling

Police turn to 1361 Act for help

By Richard Dowden

A 600-year-old Act appears to be working well as a legal device to deter kerb crawling in several large cities.

The Justice of the Peace Act, 1361, contains a clause which was designed to protect Flemish merchants as they plied their trade around England. However, after the Nottinghamshire Constabulary first successfully used the Act, several other forces have resorted to it to discourage men from driving around red light areas in search of prostitutes.

Men convicted under the Act are bound over for a period of one or two years in sums of between £100 and £200. However, its deterrent effect lies in the fact that the men's names are published.

So far there have been no acquittals under the terms of the Act and last Friday Mr Justice Caulfield upheld its use

when he rejected an appeal in the High Court.

Supt Keith Newman, of Nottinghamshire Police, said yesterday that he was more than happy with the Act. So far 41 people have been convicted under its terms in Nottingham and nine other cases are pending.

It has also been used in Norwich where 20 men were bound over, and Luton where it was used for the first time on Wednesday. In Plymouth, according to Supt Nicholas Crowhurst, simply the threat of its use has reduced kerb crawling.

But the Criminal Law Revision Committee of the Home Office has been asked by Mr David Mellor, the Under Secretary of State at the Home Office, to bring forward its report on kerb crawling to this autumn in advance of its general report on prostitution

due to be published this spring.

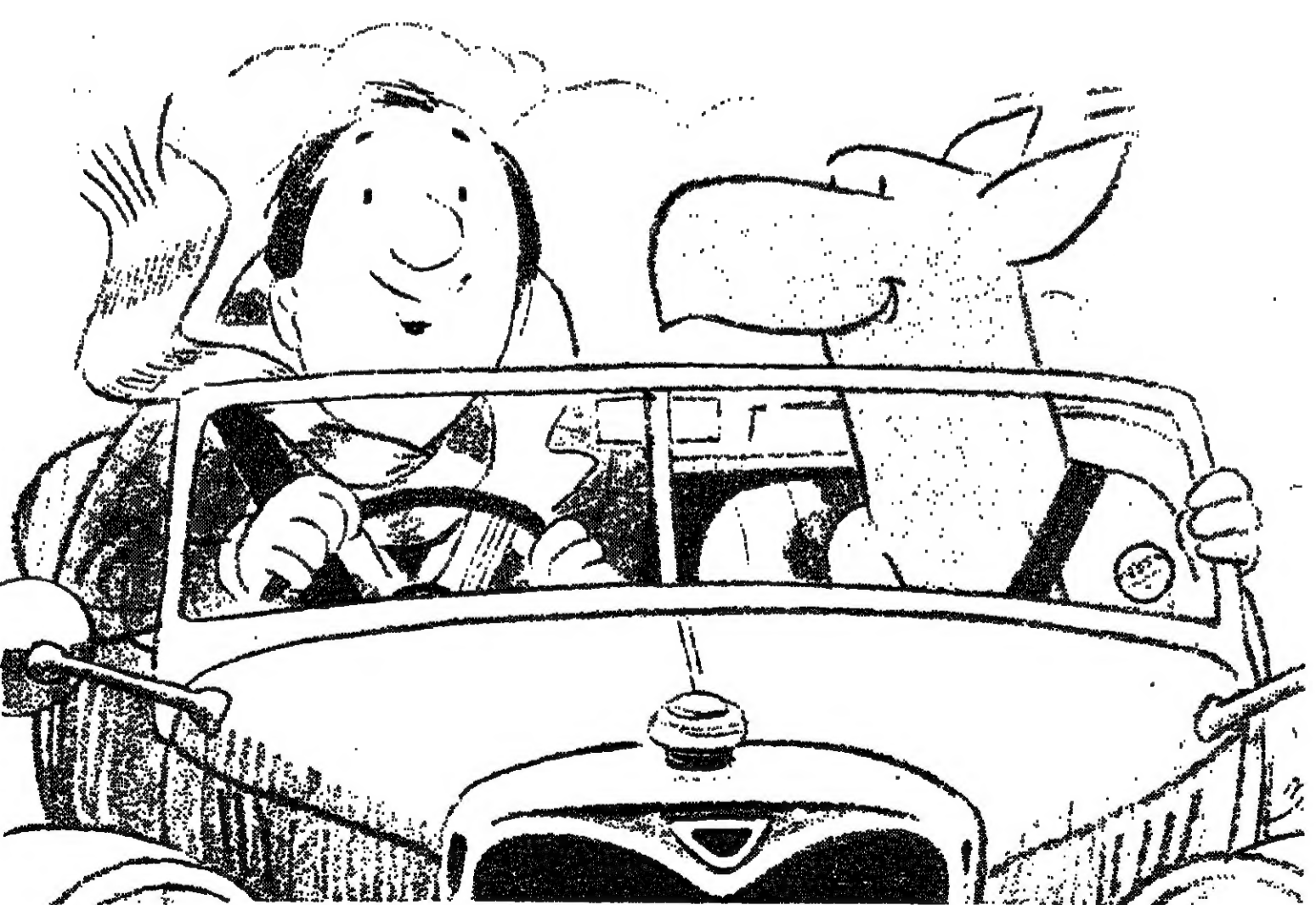
The Home Office is also concerned that a prostitute is committing a criminal offence by soliciting, the client should be held equally responsible for creating a nuisance on the streets.

In December, 1982, the committee's working paper proposed that to account a woman from a car for sexual purposes so as to cause her fear or annoyance should be a specific offence. It is not thought, however, that new legislation on prostitution will be in force until 1985.

In almost all cases where kerb crawlers have been arrested, prostitutes have been arrested at the same time for loitering.

Senior police officers speak of a "general crackdown on prostitution" and "cleaning up" certain areas. Interim figures in several areas confirm this.

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Changes for Crown Agents to go private

PRIVATIZATION

Proposals for the reorganization of the Board of Crown Agents have been broadly accepted by the Government with a view to their privatization after the position has been carefully considered by Mr. Timothy E. Bates, Minister for Overseas Development, said in a statement to the Commons. The timing and method of privatization would be settled later.

Mr. Bates said: Last summer the Government of Brussels terminated its contract with the Crown Agents for Overseas Development and Administration for the management of its investments. This resulted in significant loss of income to the Crown Agents, amounting to up to £4m in a full year, so that action became necessary to enable them to meet their financial duties under the Crown Agents Acts 1979.

The Board of Crown Agents accordingly submitted to Government proposals for reorganization, an improvement of the efficiency of the business, designed to enable them to achieve financial viability not later than 1986.

These proposals included the reduction of staff from about 1,200 to under 500, changes in terms of service to enable them to provide services competitively, and the sale of their principal offices at 4 Millbank, which would make possible the reduction of the commencing capital debt from its current level of £19.8m to £5m.

The Government has taken the opportunity to undertake a thorough review of the future of the Crown Agents and the need for their continued existence in their present form. In undertaking this, we have had regard to the Government's policy to reduce the size of the public sector, to the services which the Crown Agents provide for developing countries and to their value to Britain's own interests.

On the basis of this review I

expect Crown Agents to be fully profitable by not later than 1986.

After very careful consideration of this and other factors and of the representations made to me, the Government has decided broadly to endorse the proposals of the Board of Crown Agents for their reorganization with a view to their privatization in due course. The timing and method of privatization will be settled later. Pending the necessary legislation, the board will set in train appropriate measures of internal reorganization in order to facilitate privatization.

To facilitate the financing of this reorganization, it is the Government's intention to waive in full under Section 1(4) of the Crown Agents Act 1979 the interest due on the commencing capital debt in 1984 and to seek parliamentary approval under Section 17(10) for any waiver necessary in 1985 and 1986.

I believe that this decision will enable the Crown Agents, under their vigorous Chairman, Mr. Peter Graham, to continue to serve successfully both Britain and the developing world.

Mr. George Robertson, an Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs, the Minister and this Government have rightly complemented the Crown Agents on their invaluable role and it would therefore be disgraceful if the ideological beliefs of the Government were allowed to wipe out the strategy.

This statement is welcome in as much, and only in as much, as it accepts the Crown Agents reorganization plan and the rescheduling of the immediate debt problems.

However, the threat of quite unnecessary and damaging privatization is still to hang over the heads of the Crown Agents, which would make no sense at all in this area and which would enormously damage the viability and independence of the Crown Agents, is still there as a prospect in the

indefinite future.

As long as it goes on it will go on robbing the Crown Agents of the talent and the confidence which they have been losing in this period of uncertainty since last September.

What consultations have the Government had with the client countries of the Crown Agents since it is their view and their confidence which determines the Agents' value?

What consultations have been made with the staff of the Crown Agents in view of the substantial period of uncertainty they have suffered? What is the position of the persons office in East Kilbride?

The Financial Times today says it is to be subsumed within a Whitehall department.

Regarding the sale of 4 Millbank, what studies have been made of the state of the London property market which suggests this would be the best time to sell a valuable property in the public interest?

Mr. Bates said: On privatization, we want to ensure the position carefully initially to find ways of privatizing at any rate, and probably the whole, of the Crown Agents. The chairman is happy with the future we have put forward.

We have not had formal consultations with client countries, but we have had discussions with people in different parts of the world about the role of the Crown Agents and I acknowledge the respect in which they are being treated in the Crown Agents.

I have seen representatives of the Crown Agents' trade unions in London and East Kilbride and hope to meet them again to discuss the implications of the decision on their future.

We have no plans at present to subsume the office at East Kilbride into the main office in London, as we want to see what is the best way of handling it.

Regarding the sale of 4 Millbank, the Crown Agents believe they can achieve a considerable capital for this and I endorse their view.

Sir Bernard Braine (Castle Point, C) said the interim statement left the

Robertson: Unnecessary and damaging threat

Crown Agents and their clients in some doubt and uncertainty, which was not in the national interest.

There were 4,000 British companies, many quite small, which were largely dependent on the agents.

Mr. Bates replied that as the agents moved towards privatization it should be possible to look at each stage and so maintain their position.

He hoped the agents could move forward and implement reorganization, then consider the best way to move to privatization without throwing away the advantages of the existence of the agents.

Mr. David Allen (Liverpool, Moseley Hill, C) said many people will see this as a prison chalice containing praise for the agents and at the same time the seeds of their own destruction. This decision is purely a dogmatic one taken for doctrinaire reasons.

Mr. Bates: It will be seen as a sensible development plan for the future and one capable of making the best use of the skills and resources at present embodied in the Crown Agents.

Mr. Anthony Nelson (Chichester, C) said there was abundant evidence to show that privatization was long overdue but that the Crown Agents over a period of years had let the Crown down.

Mr. Bates: There have been particular difficulties in Brunel. The difficulty reported today in the press is simply due to a misunderstanding. I hope that can be resolved. I have no doubt that our decision to reorganize with a view to privatization is right and I hope that can be brought about before long.

Colliery incident condemned as disgraceful

NCB CHAIRMAN

The incident the previous day at Ellington Colliery, Northumberland, in which Mr. Ian MacGregor, the 71-year-old chairman of the National Coal Board, was knocked to the ground, was disgraceful, Mrs. Thatcher said today.

Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during Commons questions. Most miners would, she added, condemn it.

Mr. Kinnoch, Leader of the Opposition, later said he had spoken to Mr. MacGregor and the Northumberland police. The Prime Minister and Mr. Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, were trying to make mischief out of a deeply regrettable accident.

The incident was referred to by Mr. Alan Beth (Berkswick-upon-Tweed, L), in whose constituency the colliery is situated. He said it caused deep concern to many of his constituents, including large numbers of miners who shared the deep sense of frustration of other miners in the Northumberland coalfield.

because of closures but who did not see that violence and disorder was the answer.

Did Mrs. Thatcher also deplore the existence of the area security, unlike those of the lodge officials? A badly organized protest was allowed by the area organizer to get out of hand.

Mrs. Thatcher: I join with him in condemning the incident; it was a disgraceful incident and most miners will condemn it. I share his repulsion. I am sorry Mr. Kinnoch chose not to condemn it in his choice of questions earlier.

Mr. John Ryman (Blyth Valley, Lab): Could the Prime Minister reconsider her complacent attitude towards jobs and appreciate that as a result of the ferocious campaign by the NCB, dozens of pits in the North East are threatened with redundancies and closure?

The Secretary of State for Energy (Mr. Peter Walker) and Mr. MacGregor have today refused to listen to representations on behalf of the men.

Mrs. Thatcher: The Government's

record on putting investment into the coal industry is outstanding and exceeds the Plan for Coal. The Government has more than honoured its promise. It demonstrates that the Government and Mr. MacGregor have faith in the future of the coal industry.

● Later, on a point of order, Mr. Kinnoch said that within minutes of being told of the incident in Northumberland yesterday he spoke to Mr. MacGregor's office to inquire about his welfare.

I shared the concern of everybody (he said). I spoke to Mr. MacGregor personally this morning. I have checked the details of the incident with the Northumberland police and I have come to the conclusion this was a deeply regrettable accident.

Both the Home Secretary (Mr. Leon Brittan) and now the Prime Minister are simply trying to make mischief out of what was a regrettable accident, and not one worthy of use by senior members of the Government.

Dr. David Owen, Leader of the SDP,

then rose on a point of order and said it was an intolerable abuse of points of order for the Leader of the Opposition to be allowed to make a statement.

Amid loud heckling from both Labour and Conservative benches, Dr. Owen said the Leader of the House (Mr. John Biffen) refused to make a statement on the Northumberland incident yesterday and the letter yesterday by the Minister of State, Home Office (Mr. Douglas Hurd) did not contain any of what was stated by Mr. Brittan and Mrs. Thatcher.

There had been no opportunity to raise the issue in the House. The Speaker (Mr. Bernard Weatherill) replied that there were questions on which he could not rule after question time an extension of question time.

Following further attempts by Dr. Owen to make his point of order heard above continuous interruptions, the Speaker said: Had I anticipated what Mr. Kinnoch was going to say perhaps I should not have allowed it. We ought not to have any further questions after extension of question time.

Decision on GCHQ is right

PMS QUESTIONS

Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said today that the decision on the Government's policy on GCHQ was right.

She said: The decision on GCHQ has been accepted and that majority increases day by day.

Mr. Kinnoch: None of that explains the long delays or utterly incompetent way the Government is trying to deal with it.

We are now dealing with the issue of democracy, liberty or efficiency, or security, by issues of personal vanity (Labour cheers).

Mrs. Thatcher: I note how lightly he chooses to treat issues of national security.

Mr. Craxie Ouslow (Woking, C): Most MPs and most people take the view that it is the responsibility of the Government to see that the requirements of national security are met and not that of trade unions and not that of the Leader of the Opposition.

Mrs. Thatcher: It is a heavy responsibility and the way we have chosen to discharge it is the right one.

for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, has been in Paris this morning and has made vigorous representations to the French Government about the plight of our lorry drivers.

Our consular staff in the worst case have been increased by people going there from Paris. They are lending money to lorry drivers to enable them to purchase the things that they need.

Most lorry drivers wish to stay with their families, but we have had a request from one group to be repatriated. What can we do about it is being urgently considered.

Mr. Craxie Ouslow (Woking, C): Most MPs and most people take the view that it is the responsibility of the Government to see that the requirements of national security are met and not that of trade unions and not that of the Leader of the Opposition.

Mrs. Thatcher: It is a heavy responsibility and the way we have chosen to discharge it is the right one.

No rates on farm land

The Government does not intend to reopen the question of rating of agricultural land and buildings, Mrs. Thatcher said today.

During question time, but she spoke of the need for painful adjustments in agriculture.

Sir Peter Mills (West Devon and

Scope for big savings

The extent to which significant savings resulted from the Government's metropolitan reorganization plans depended upon how vigorously they were pursued by the boroughs and districts, Mrs. Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said.

She had been invited to comment on the report by Coopers and Lybrand, the management consultants hired by the metropolitan counties to analyse the effect of their abolition, that only paltry savings would be achieved.

Mr. Stanley Thomas (Preston, Lab) said the report revealed that there would be no net savings but a possible increase on cost of £50m a year.

Mrs. Thatcher: I have seen the outline of that report. The fact is that Coopers and Lybrand have identified scope for significant savings.



Mills: Industry has served country well

Consular help for drivers

Britain's consular staff are doing everything possible to see that lorry drivers from this country who are trapped in the French lorry blockade are properly looked after, Mrs. Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said.

Mr. John Sikes (Halesowen and Stourbridge, C) had asked: Will she have time today to consider the plight of British lorry drivers in France? Will she make a direct personal intervention with President Mitterrand in her best Franco-British manner?

Mrs. Thatcher: Mr. Raymond Whitney, Under-Secretary of State

Absentees from NI Assembly

ULSTER

The Northern Ireland Assembly could not continue indefinitely unless people took part in it, Mr. James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said during Commons questions on Ulster.

Mr. Peter Robinson (Belfast, East, DUP) had asked if Mr. Prior would welcome the return to the Assembly of the rest of their colleagues affects the future of the Assembly?

Mr. Prior told him: I can find any safeguard to make the work of the Assembly, even in Phase 1, more

effective by the greater participation of ministers and so on, I will be only too happy.

At the people returning to it, I shall not be satisfied until everyone is attending the Assembly who was elected to it. That may still be some way off. But meanwhile we have to go on with the assembly as it is, though it cannot continue indefinitely unless people take part.

Mr. Prior also said: we believe, and I think it is generally recognized in the country as a whole, that it is far easier to bring down institutions than it is to create them.

Nothing has been put forward in Northern Ireland which in any way comes near the success of the assembly.

Nothing has been put forward in Northern Ireland which in any way comes near the success of the assembly.

Mr. Dennis Canavan (Falkirk West, Lab): Are the absentee members still entitled to receive their wages and expenses? And if so, how much is this stupid exercise costing the taxpayers?

Mr. Prior: I do not recognise that

this is a stupid exercise. I cannot give figures of those who draw salaries and not attend, but we recognise that many of them are doing constituency work and carry out constituency functions.

Mr. Robert Macdonald (Caithness and Sutherland, SDP): Earlier he indicated that the assembly could not continue indefinitely without the support of the two major constitutional parties in the north. How long can it continue?

Mr. Prior: Not very long unless the constitutional parties do take part. That is why I hope they will do so.

Rates Bill guillotine next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be: Monday: Debate on GCHQ. Tuesday: Debate on Welsh Affairs. Wednesday: Time-table motion. Rates Bill. Debates on EEC documents on contracts negotiated away from business premises and on food aid. Barclays Bank Bill. Thursday: Appropriation (Northern Ireland) Order. Friday: Private member's motion on the provision of homes.

The main business in the House of Lords will be: Monday: Cable and Broadcasting Bill, report, first day. Tuesday: Housing and Building Control Bill, committee, first day. Wednesday: Debate on foreign affairs and disarmament. Thursday: Cable and Broadcasting Bill, report, second day.

Miss Maynard not IRA supporter

TERRORISM

Miss Joan Maynard (Sheffield, Brigholme, Con) said in Commons that she was not a supporter of the IRA. But when she said she was not in favour of terrorism "on either side", Conservative MPs cried "stupid" and "OUI".

Miss Maynard, reacting to a comment by Mr. James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, who said during questions on Ulster that remarks she had made about the IRA were unhelpful.

Mr. Robert Adley (Christchurch, C) had asked Mr. Prior to reject Miss Maynard's views.

Miss Maynard: In view of that accusation, there was misrepresentation. I do not know if he knows that. In one newspaper there was at least an untrue statement.

I repeat what I have said before, that I am not in favour of violence here or anywhere else. I have certainly never been and am not now a supporter of the IRA or of any other warring groups in that unhappy country.

Mr. Prior: I hope, in that case, that she will go one step further and say she is not in favour of terrorism and does not believe they are freedom fighters.

Miss Maynard: I am not in favour of terrorism but I am not in favour of it on either side.

The Prime Minister will not be visiting Chesterfield, but took the opportunity of a request that she should do so, to condemn Mr. Neil Kinnoch's speech on Monday as thoroughly irresponsible, and to commend a comment by Mr. John Taylor (Strangford, OUP) that the

people of Northern Ireland saw the murder of a British Army sergeant there as the act of terrorists and not of freedom fighters.

Mr. John Heddle (Mid Staffordshire, C), who had asked if Mrs. Thatcher would visit Chesterfield, referred to Mr. Kinnoch's speech calling for the abolition of Britain's nuclear defences (Labour cheers and Conservative protests).

He went on: On that same day, one of Mr. Bates's even closer parliamentary friends said that the IRA were "not terrorists". The moderate majority in Chesterfield would rather be governed by a party dedicated to peace through strength.

Mrs. Thatcher: I saw the speech. Mr. Kinnoch's comments were thoroughly irresponsible and even further to the left than the manifesto at the last election.

Government policy on defence is the only sure and effective defence for this country and the only guarantee for peace with freedom and justice.

Mr. Taylor: Will the Prime Minister assure the people of Chesterfield that the people of Northern Ireland consider that those responsible for the murder of a British Army sergeant two days ago, to be terrorists and not freedom fighters? (Cheers).

Mrs. Thatcher: I warmly endorse what he says and thank him for it.

The winding up of an historical curiosity

PENSIONS

The Pensions Commutation Bill, which dissolves the Pensions Commutation Board and transfers to the Secretary of State for Defence its work of dealing with applications to commute some types of pensions into lump sum payments, was read a second time in the Commons and passed its remaining stages.

Mr. Barry Hayhoe, Minister of State, Treasury, moving the second reading, said almost all applications came from retired officers of the armed forces, though some civilians receiving pensions given for loss of office before 1972 were also entitled to apply.

When the board was established in 1869, commutation decisions were much more difficult and potentially more controversial than they were now. In more recent years, with a mass of published information about the likely effects of various medical conditions, much of the board's work had become routine.

The board had become something of a historical curiosity. The Bill was entirely an administrative procedure and did not affect a potential applicant's rights or the amount of money he was likely to receive.

Applicants for commutation were charged a fee related to the costs of providing the service, and the changes would reduce administrative costs. This would benefit applicants, the Office of Pensions Society had been consulted and had not objected.

The board was dealing with 1,000 applications each year. These involved lump sum payments of about £20m a year. Commutation decisions were taken in accordance

with tables drawn up by the Government Actuary. Most applicants received the full amount.

Dr. Oonagh McKeown, Opposition spokeswoman on Treasury and economic affairs, said she accepted that the board had become an anachronism, set up in Victorian times.

Mr. Michael Strev (Bristol North West, C) said he welcomed the Bill in the limited terms in which it had been introduced. But he had hoped the opportunity would have been taken to bring the whole scheme out of the 1870s rather than merely the administration of it. This was a shame.

The process by which retired officers applied for commutation of pensions would remain firmly rooted in the 1870s and bear no comparison to the processes by which, under normal commercial and private occupation pension schemes, similar commutations were dealt with.

● The Merchant Shipping Bill passed its remaining stages in the Commons.

New aircraft for Queen's Flight

An announcement will be made shortly on a replacement for the Andovers of the Queen's Flight but there are no plans to replace the Wessex helicopters, the Earl of Aves, a Government spokesman, said in the House of Lords.

When Lord Boyd-Carpenter (C) asked what he meant by shortly, the Earl of Aves said the RAF was evaluating two BA 146 series 100 aircraft. The trials were going well and there was little reason to doubt this excellent plane would graduate to use in The Queen's Flight.

Fowler reconsiders policy on general managers for NHS

By Nicholas Timmins, Health Service Correspondent

Mr. Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Social Services, appears to be retreating from full implementation of the key recommendation of the Griffiths report, that general managers should be introduced throughout the National Health Service.

Health authorities are to be given between 12 and 18 months to finalize their response to the report and it is also no longer certain that the introduction of managers will be mandatory or even that the job will be full time.

Mr. Fowler told the House of Commons select committee on social services recently that he is looking for "maximum flexibility to suit local circumstances" in introducing the changes.

He is considering whether general managers could be part-time, whether the job could be combined with an existing post in the district management team, whether there should be "a range of different solutions in different areas", and whether even the job title could vary.

Mr. Fowler's attitude appears to contrast with that of Mr. Roy Griffiths, author of the report, who is director and deputy chairman of Sainsbury's and of the NHS Supervisory Board.

Mr. Griffiths said the report was not meant to be prescriptive and there would be a variety of methods for introducing it. But he urged the

committee that "the general management functions should not be watered down", and said general managers were "the very heart of the report".

He warned the committee not to "underestimate the load of responsibility that a good general manager will bear". Sir Brian Bailey, another of the report's authors, added that it was not a job that could be done by the chairman of a health authority: "it was not a part-time job".

A senior member of the social services committee said yesterday that Mr. Fowler appeared "far less determined than I thought" on the general manager issue.

Mr. Edward Coke, counsel for Mr. Hothi, whose case is being funded by the Commission for Racial Equality, told Birmingham Crown Court yesterday: "According to the minutes, from 1981 until today on no other occasion has a ballot been requested and has anyone been blackballed."

The club denies discrimination and the hearing continues today.

Farmers grossly overuse pesticides, report claims

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Pesticides to control insects, weeds, and plant diseases are grossly overused, and are not subject to adequate legal safeguards according to a report published yesterday.

The report was prepared by Friends of the Earth for a campaigning group called the Pesticides Action Network, is supported by Oxfam, and the Soil Association. It describes the pesticides safety precautions scheme (PSPS), which is administered by the Ministry of Agriculture under guidance from an independent panel of scientists, as a toothless watchdog.

The report points out that there are no legal limits on the application of pesticides. Vegetables, for example, may receive up to 46 sprays in a season, yet residues in foodstuffs, which constitute a

potential health hazard, are not properly monitored.

It adds that even when chemicals are declared unsafe under the safety scheme, there is nothing to stop farmers using them. Most farmers have no training in pesticide use or safety.

The report calls for statutory controls to give legal force to the present voluntary arrangements; a system for monitoring the health effects of pesticides; and greater disclosure of information on potential hazards.

It also wants a ban on the sale of pesticide that has not been cleared by the ministry as effective; a ministry-sponsored programme to reduce pesticide use to the minimum; maximum legal limits of levels of residues in foodstuffs; and regular surveys of the health of farmers and farmworkers.

Sikh claims race bias by golf club

A Sikh claimed yesterday that he was refused membership of a golf club on racial grounds. Mr. Pramjit Singh Hothi, aged 40, a postal supervisor, is claiming damages from the Wrekin Golf Club, Shropshire, on the ground of discrimination. He alleges that he is the only applicant to be rejected in the past three years.

Mr. Edward Coke, counsel for Mr. Hothi, whose case is being funded by the Commission for Racial Equality, told Birmingham Crown Court yesterday: "According to the minutes, from 1981 until today on no other occasion has a ballot been requested and has anyone been blackballed."

The club denies discrimination and the hearing continues today.



Surgical spirit: Witch Hazel, an 11-year-old mare which might have been shot after dislocation, was treated with carbon fibre implant and six months later shows no sign of lameness, according to an article in The Veterinary Record.

The operations were carried out by Mr. Barry Edwards and Mr. Leslie Vaughan at the Royal Veterinary College field station at North Mymms, Hertfordshire. "The standard of recovery achieved here is encouraging," they said.

In a similar operation, a 15-

Privatized services 'save £1m'

Health authorities are saving nearly £1m a year through privatization of domestic and laundry services in eight health authorities, Mr. John Patten, Parliamentary Secretary for Health, said yesterday.

His comments came as health authorities complete their timetables for putting all their domestic, catering and laundry services out to tender between now and 1986.

Visiting Yorkshire Regional Health Authority in Harrogate yesterday, Mr. Patten said that the privatization of cleaning services at new Clarendon Wing in Leeds was producing savings of £45,000 a year.

In Midway, savings of £1m over three years were promised on domestic services, while the privatization of domestic services at Redhill, Maidstone, and of laundry in North Warwickshire, Merton and North West Surrey were producing savings of more than £500,000 a year.

JP's may send more offenders to cells

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The controversial use by magistrates of police cells for people sentenced for drink-driving offences may be extended to other offences including theft and assault.

The Magistrates' Association's sentencing committee is examining the feasibility of using powers under the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1980, to impose sentences of up to four days in police cells for additional offences.

Mr. Geoffrey Norman, the association's secretary, said: "The advantage of such sentences is that they are short and yet highly-effective. Offenders are less likely to lose their job than if they went to prison and they do not come into contact with ordinary prison population."

The decision of magistrates at Grays, Essex, to send drink-driving offenders to custody in

police cells at Christmas caused considerable controversy and some opposition from police.

Sunday police forces have argued that they do not have the cells available for such offenders. But Mr. Norman said the association would also be considering the availability and suitability of police cells throughout England and Wales.

The association believes the decision to impose a sentence of police custody is up to individual magistrates, but it must take into account local accommodation.

It says however, that such a penalty "has substantial advantages in appropriate cases" without course other than custody is considered appropriate. Being locked up for four days in police custody for the first time may well be sufficient to deter an offender from committing a similar offence.

British Museum reading room 'not under threat'

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The most famous library reading room in the world, the dome-shaped magnet of international scholars in the British Museum, Bloomsbury, will not be threatened immediately by the creation of a new home for the British Library, its chairman, Sir Frederick Dainton, said yesterday.

Academics have rallied to the defence of the room, which was designed in 1857 and is now run by the British Library, in the belief that the new building will be the death of the historic hall.

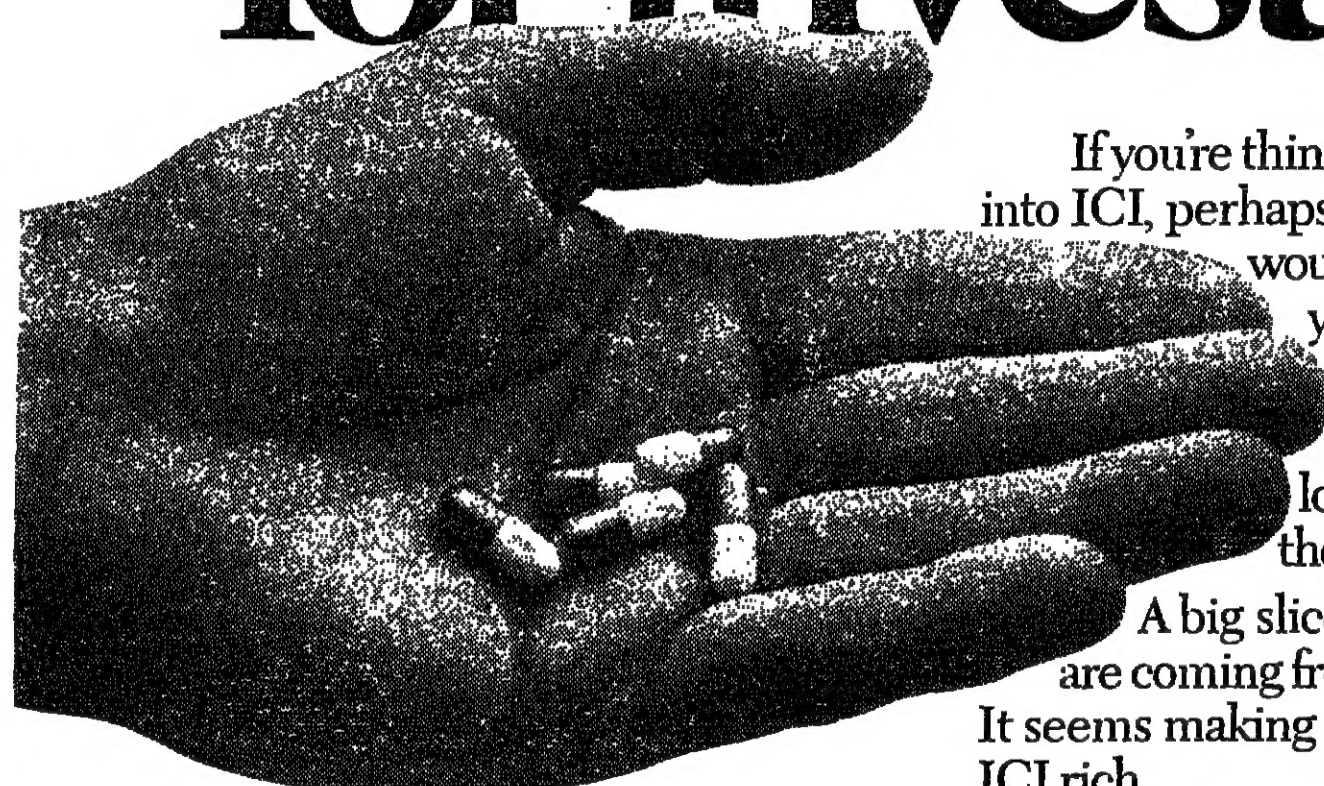
Last year, Lord Thomas of Swynerton, head of the Centre for Policy Studies and a trusted adviser to the Prime Minister, produced a pamphlet, *The Case for the Round Reading Room*,

which attacked the planned extension next to St. Pancras station and defended the facilities of the existing reading room.

Sir Frederick, unveiling the British Library's annual report yesterday, said that he thought no decision on the future of the reading room could be taken until the end of the century.

The new British Library building will contain 55 miles of shelving by the end of the decade, Sir Frederick said. It will act as a central headquarters for the library, which owns 163,000 volumes of manuscripts, nearly 1,400,000 cartographic items, and 1,400,000 music scores.

Cancer. Heart failure. Blindness. The Economist asks what the future has in store for investors in ICI.



If you're thinking of putting money into ICI, perhaps a chat with your doctor would be as useful as a trip to your stockbroker.

At the moment, the future of ICI's profits looks rather tied up with the future of mankind.

A big slice of their current profits are coming from drug sales in America. It seems making people better is making ICI rich.

Since there's little sign of a healthier world, despite its current preoccupation with running shoes and muesli, ICI are sensibly looking to the future with several interesting new drugs in research and development.

In a recent article, The Economist looked at these new drugs and analysed their therapeutic and commercial possibilities.

Of 3 major drugs being developed to fight cancer, diabetic blindness and heart failure, The Economist picked one as a potential life-saver and money-spinner.

It was an article you should have read. You'd have found it not amongst our business pages but under 'Science and Technology.'

Proof again (if it were needed) that with so much overlapping information you have to lap up as much of it as possible.

Every week, The Economist makes that not so much a task as a

pleasure. The writing is pithy, the punches rarely pulled and the coverage worldwide.

Even other journals find it easy to be enthusiastic:

"One need not agree with The Economist's views to admire the way they have been put. Good writing is its forte. On OPEC, for example:

'Hooray for the disarray in OPEC, and pray that it might be terminal. It probably won't be. False news of OPEC's impending death has erupted before as often as Mark Twain reckoned he gave up cigars.'

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If we've tempted you to try The Economist we suggest trying it for more than one week.

It's often an acquired taste and that may mean acquiring three or four issues. (A small investment for the pleasure and information you'll get in return.)

Over the weeks, study the letter pages and compare them with other celebrated journals. (You may agree that our readers are not only more worldly but more witty.)

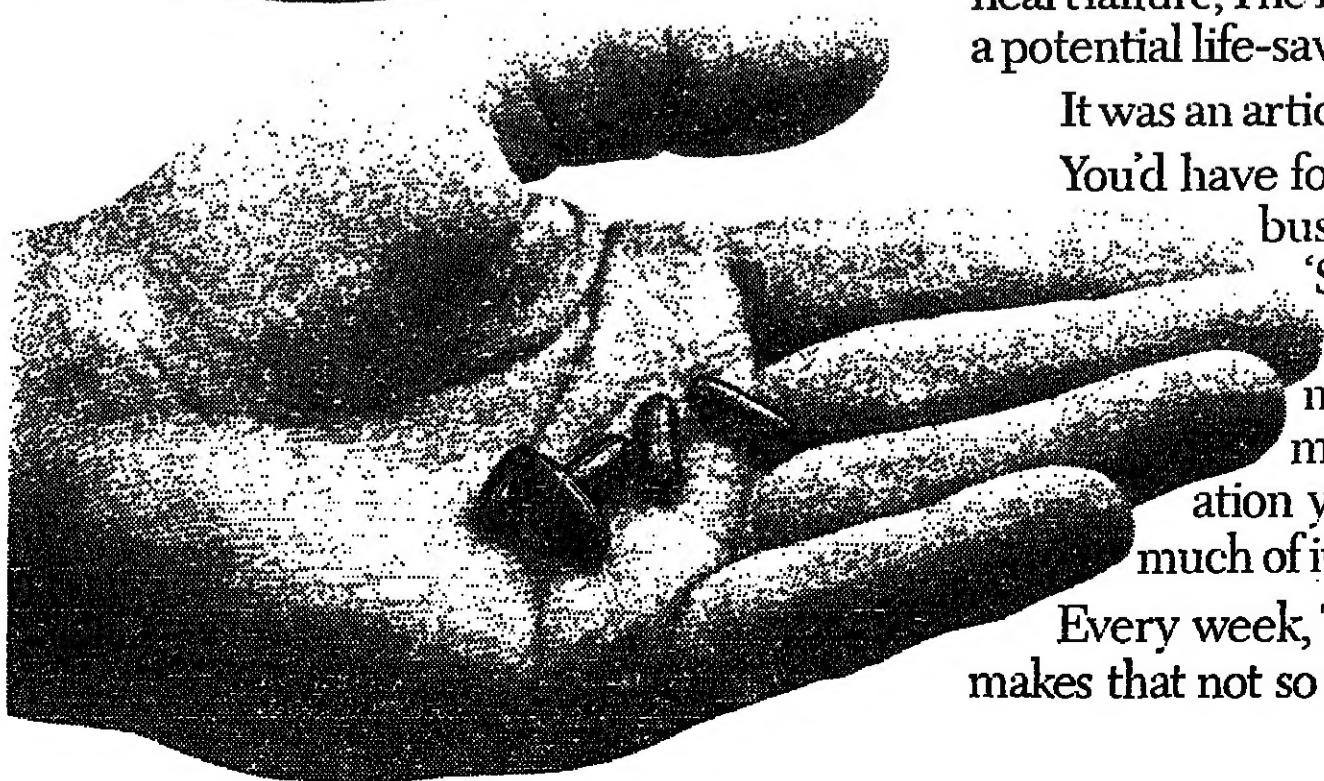
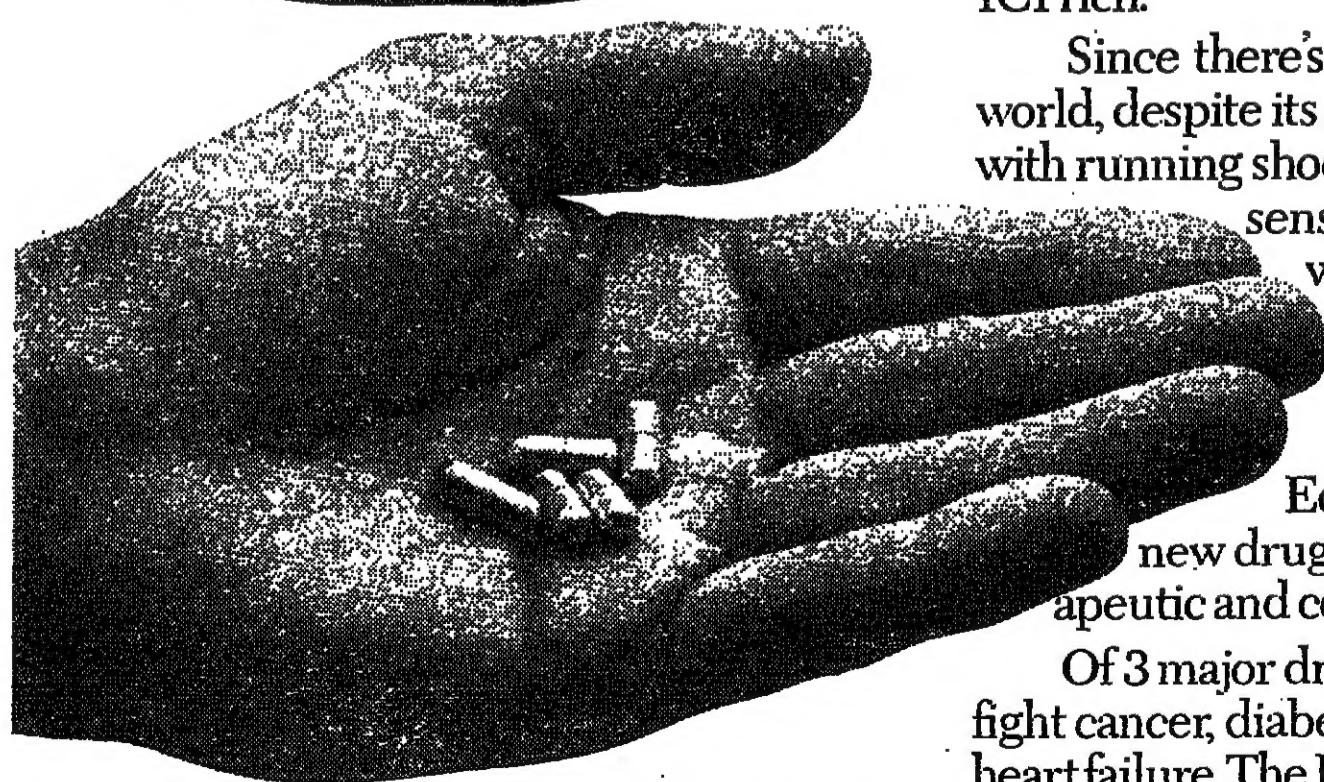
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The
Economist



Middle East: President at bay

Militias in control

Baghdad-Basra road cut

Cargo craft links in space with Salyut-7

Reagan on defensive as journalists give him rough ride on television

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

In 22 televised press conferences President Reagan has never looked so nervous, uncomfortable, defensive. The questioning bordered on the rude — was he a part-time president, a nominal leader, intellectually lazy, forgetful, providing leadership by amnesia?

On Lebanon he ranged through historical justification, refusing to acknowledge defeat of his policy. Even as he spoke American Marines were retreating from Beirut. He said their mission was not over, that they might be sent back, that the naval task force off Lebanon was there to stay.

Lebanon and leadership are key issues among those that mark Mr Reagan's road to four more years in the White House. He dismissed as "fiction" the suggestion that he is not in charge and waits too long to make a decision.

It was Mr Walter Mondale, his main Democratic rival for the presidency, who recently accused the President of governing by amnesia. "I'm surprised he knew what the word meant," Mr Reagan scoffed, a remark more barbed than his usual style.

He looked taken aback by the exceptional severity of the questioning. "As to that fiction about whether I sit back and let somebody else do what to do — that's a lack of understanding of how our system has been working here," he said.

And as for Mr Mondale's attacks: "If that's all he has to talk about out there on the trail to his audiences, why, let him

go. I'm going to talk about the things we are doing and the things we intend to do."

Wednesday's night's press conference will have delighted the Democrats. Mr Reagan is 73, already the oldest President America had had. His age and his leadership style are now firmly established as election issues.

"I have never gone upstairs from that (Oval) office once that I have not carried an entire evening full of homework with me," he said defensively.

"And I could tell you about the sniping that takes place at so-called vacations like the four days I spent at the ranch. Presidents, I've learned, don't take vacations. They just get a change of scenery."

That particular vacation was taken immediately after he announced the Marine pullout. While he rode on horseback and cleared brush, the USS New Jersey was pounding nearly 300 16in one-ton shells into areas around Beirut while his Lebanon policy collapsed. It was not a four-day holiday — he arrived on the Tuesday and left on the Sunday.

The President became especially heated when someone asked him to respond to suggestions that he does not spend enough time being President. "They don't know what they are talking about. And I almost made that a little more blunt right then but decided it would be unseemly if I did."

On Lebanon he said that "once the terrorist attacks started there was no way that we could really contribute to the original mission by staying

there as a target just bunkering down and waiting for further attacks."

His recollection of the chronology was awry — in fact it was four months after the terrorist attacks began that he ordered the troops out. Only three weeks ago he accused the Democrats of wanting to surrender by withdrawing the Marines.

He vigorously defended Mr George Shultz, Secretary of State, who consistently urged the President to let the Marines stay in Beirut. Some Democrats have demanded the resignation of Mr Shultz, who himself took a four-day holiday to the Bahamas the day that the Marines began their rapid departure. Would Mr Reagan accept his resignation? "No I wouldn't," he said.

The President was asked to say something to the parents and widows of the 241 Marines who died in the massive Beirut attack on October 23. He said he had talked to many of the widows and parents "And I have been amazed at their attitude, which was one of complete confidence that it was a worthwhile mission."

He insisted that the United States was not turning tail in Lebanon. "We are not bugging out, we are just going to a little more defensible position."

On other issues Mr Reagan reiterated America's determination to keep open the Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Persian Gulf.

He advocated a constitutional amendment — soon to be discussed in the Senate — to allow voluntary prayer in schools.



Along for the ride: A Lebanese boy swings on a machine gun mounted on a US Marine's Jeep leaving Beirut.

'Slander' drives banker to suicide

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv

Mr Yaakov Levinson, a banker and financial strongman in the Israeli labour movement, committed suicide yesterday morning by shooting himself on the rooftop patio of his home in a Tel Aviv suburb.

A few hours earlier, the police had formed a team to examine transactions in Bank Hapoalim (the workers' bank) between 1979 and 1981, when Mr Levinson was chairman of the bank's board of directors and of its subsidiary, Ampal of New York, which was formed to mobilize capital for the labour movement.

Police suspicions were not officially disclosed, but media reports alleged that Mr Levinson, aged 52, had sold bank assets to Ampal at book value, which was considerably lower than their real worth. He resigned from the bank in 1981 but served in Ampal until the scandal broke last month.

In a suicide note, left under a telephone near the doorway of his home in the Ramat Gan, he wrote that former associates in the bank and the General Federation of Labour had intrigued against him, adding slander to slander to brand him for "crimes and mismanagement."

He said he had been perfectly clean, but his successor at the bank had told him: "They want you under a marble slab." He said he did not wish to spend the rest of his life fighting off slanders.

The bank's board began its secret investigation some 10 months ago on the basis of anonymous letters. On February 9 its legal adviser turned the material over to the Attorney General in Jerusalem, who transferred it the same day to the police.

The story surfaced last month in *Haolam Hazek*, a weekly magazine. The editor, Mr Uri Avnery, said yesterday he had shown the material to Mr Levinson and invited him to comment, but the banker had not offered convincing explanations and had merely made counter-charges against rivals in the organization.

Mr Levinson was born in Tel Aviv. He was considered a financial wizard as head of the Bank Hapoalim, which under his leadership grew quickly into one of the big three in the Israeli banking system. He seldom appeared in public, declined to be interviewed on television or radio, and was regarded as a mystery man who used his power behind the scenes.

Before the 1981 Israeli elections, which Labour lost, the party leadership proposed him as finance minister.

Death penalty supported in US Senate

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The US Senate has approved by 63 to 32 votes a bill to restore the death penalty for major federal crimes. Capital offences would include treason, espionage, kidnapping and attempts to assassinate the President.

However, the Bill, which has the Reagan Administration's backing, faces fierce opposition from opponents of capital punishment in the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives.

The Senate action on Wednesday was the first time in a decade that either House of Congress had voted to legalize capital punishment for federal crimes after a 1972 Supreme Court ruling which effectively nullified death penalty laws then on the books.

Since then 38 states have legalized the death penalty

Iran claims 22 villages seized and vital highway severed

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Iran yesterday claimed to have achieved big gains in its latest offensive against Iraq, cutting the main road between Baghdad and Basra in several places.

If true, these advances would constitute a substantial setback for Iraq. For their part, the Iraqis claimed to have defeated an Iranian advance to the east of Basra.

The Iraqis claimed to have captured 22 Iraqi villages, as well as the town of Al Qurnah, just north of the confluence of the rivers Tigris and Euphrates. Al Qurnah is the largest centre of population so far claimed to have been captured by the Iraqis. It is about 15 miles from the border between the two countries.

If the Iraqis have effectively cut the road north from Basra, and driven a wedge

between the Iraqi Third and Fourth Corps, as they claim, it is likely to disrupt Iraq's logistic supplies very severely, and could lead to the isolating of Basra, which is Iraq's second largest town.

The Iranian claims were reported by the official Iranian news agency, which said: "With this Iranian victory, the enemy has lost one of its most important logistical routes."

The official Iraqi news agency, INA, however, quoted the commander of the Fourth Iraqi Army Corps as denying that the Iraqis were in control of the highway between Basra and Amarah, and denied they had reached the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates.

Iraqi sources reported a heavy Iranian artillery barrage in the vicinity of Basra, but

claimed that an Iranian attack east of Basra had "ended with the total annihilation of the attacking forces and the victory of the Iraqi armed forces."

Sources in London yesterday were keeping an open mind about the truth of the claims and counter-claims by the two sides. If the Iranian claims prove to be true they will mark much the greatest penetration they have achieved in the war, which has lasted over three and a half years.

There is surprise in the West that Iraq appears to be taking little advantage of its superiority in air power and in tanks and artillery.

By fighting what appears to be a static infantry war, Iraq seems to be playing into the hands of the Iraqis, who have vastly greater resources of manpower.

US concerned at British sales to Teheran

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington

The United States has expressed concern privately to the British Government about the sale of non-lethal equipment and spare parts to Iran. The Americans fear that Britain may be unintentionally supplying equipment of military value.

Sir John Leahy, a deputy under secretary at the Foreign Office — the senior British official dealing with the Middle East — met several American officials at the State Department in Washington on Wednesday. The Americans emphasized their concern that the regime of Ayatollah Khomeini could be getting equipment and spares from Britain that will help in its war against Iraq.

The British have told the Americans that every item sold to Iran is subjected to a rigorous scrutiny. US officials, however, remain worried. As one senior source said: "As a purely illustrative example, would wing-tip pods for non-combat aircraft be regarded as lethal or non-lethal? In themselves they are not lethal but if they make an aircraft fly what then?"

Sir John arrived in Washington on Tuesday from Paris, where he held consultations about the situation in Lebanon. He spent yesterday at the United Nations, principally for discussions about the crisis in Beirut. His discussions with Administration officials in Washington embraced the full range of Middle East issues, but American representations about the sale of British equipment to Iran took up much of his time.

Craxi and Kohl hold EEC talks

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Signor Bettino Craxi, the Italian Prime Minister, arrived here yesterday for talks with Chancellor Kohl aimed at averting a breakdown of the forthcoming European summit. Immediately after his departure this afternoon the Chancellor will fly to Paris to continue the discussion with President Mitterrand.

The talks with Signor Craxi, attended also by Signor Giulio Andreotti, the Foreign Minister, are part of regular consultations between Bonn and Rome. But Herr Kohl sees them as particularly important in his offensive to try to force a compromise at Brussels.

On Wednesday he called together the senior ministers most involved in the hectic discussions now going on about Europe. In a confidential session with Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister, and the Ministers of Finance, Economics and Agriculture, the Chancellor hammered out the maximum concessions his Government is prepared to make to its European partners, its stance on an agricultural price rise and how much Germany is prepared to pay into the EEC coffers.

There had been complaints that preparatory work by the Chancellor's office had lacked coordination.

Killer reprieved in South Africa

Pretoria (AFP) — A man said to have been hired by a British citizen, Mervyn Smith, to kill her husband was yesterday granted a reprieve from the gallows by President Marais Viljoen. Mrs Smith's death sentence had earlier been commuted.

The sentence on David Magunzi, which had been upheld by the appeal court, was commuted to 30 years' imprisonment. According to the evidence, Mrs Smith asked her chauffeur to find someone to kill her husband, Mr Roger Smith, who was later found stabbed to death.

Brazilians loot food stores

Sao Paulo — Mobs of up to 2,000 have stripped dozens of Ministry of Agriculture and other food stores in the northern state of Ceara in the past few weeks, as the rains failed for the fifth year running. The state capital of Fortaleza, where almost two million people live, or have taken refuge, has only enough water for another 40 days, despite strict rationing.

Hongkong date

Peking (AFP) — Chinese and British negotiators wound up their latest round of talks here on the future of Hongkong with a joint statement that the session has been "useful and constructive." The next round will be on March 16 and 17 in Peking.

New York blast

New York (AP) — Terrorists hurled three bombs into the grounds of a Soviet residential compound in the Bronx, setting a diplomat's car on fire. A militant Jewish group claimed responsibility.

Danish vote

Copenhagen — Denmark's recently-elected Conservative-Liberal minority coalition cleared its first big hurdle of the new session yesterday when Parliament belatedly passed its austerity Finance Bill by 79 votes to 27.

Lima attack

Lima (AP) — Shining Path guerrillas hurled explosives at the Lima home of the president of Peru's Senate, Senator Ricardo Montenegro, seriously damaging the residence but causing no injuries.

\$850,000 dress

Tokyo (AP) — A wedding dress embroidered with diamonds and pearls worth an estimated \$850,000 was modeled here at a bridal collection show.

Defectors take over in Beirut

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

With Israeli jets flying high over Beirut on their way yet again to bomb around the town of Bhamdoun above Beirut, Muslim units of the Lebanese Army's Sixth Brigade, who defected to the Shia Muslim militias when the Government Army broke apart earlier this month, moved back onto the streets of the west of the city yesterday.

Immaculately dressed in combat fatigues, fully armed and driving armoured personnel carriers and tanks.

Only a lonely truck carrying Amal gunmen was there behind each convoy to betray just how really was in command of the soldiers.

Along the Corniche and the beachside at Raslet el-Baida, pedestrians were too busy waving at the soldiers — something they would never have done when the troops were under President Amin Gemayel's command — to notice the high silver shapes of the Israeli aircraft or the brown smoke that began to drift up from the mountains around Bhamdoun at lunchtime.

The explosions could be heard far away and the Israelis later claimed that they had bombed Palestinian positions, although the Druze "Voice of the Mountain" radio station alleged later that Lebanese government troops had opened an artillery bombardment on the Druze in the town at the same time as the air raids.

Declaring that they were the "National Army" one officer even declared himself to be a member of a "People's Army" — the appearance of anti-Government Lebanese troops, claiming to be as patriotic as their Christian colleagues in the Army on the other side of the front line in Beirut, has at last consecrated the break-up of Government forces in Lebanon.

If President Gemayel orders Christian troops of the Army to recapture west Beirut, they will now have to fight their Muslim opponents in the same uniforms and in some cases using identical weapons.

The Muslim soldiers were also intended to demonstrate to the population that Mr Nabih Berri, the Shia Muslim Amal leader, wants to maintain authority in west Beirut and — even more important — to portray that authority as legitimate.

Christian troops aided by Christian militias control east Beirut. Now Muslim troops aided by Muslim militias control west Beirut. Mr Gemayel will have understood the equation.

Israeli planes pound Lebanese targets

Continued from page 1

the Palestinians who fought alongside them in the recent rout of the Lebanese Army.

Despite firm denials from many Western observers in Beirut, Israeli military intelligence, on whose assessments the latest raids are planned, is understood to have supplied the Chief of Staff with detailed information alleging that 7,000 Palestinian fighters are now based in various parts of Lebanon.

The Israelis appear unmoved by the denials from Western journalists and diplomats, insisting that 2,000 Palestinians (many of whom they claim are operating under cover) have now penetrated back into west Beirut, double the number last month. The army also estimates that 1,300 Palestinian "terrorists" are now based in the battered Lebanese port of Tripoli, between 2,300 and 2,700 in the Bekaa valley and 1,500 in the central Metn mountain region.

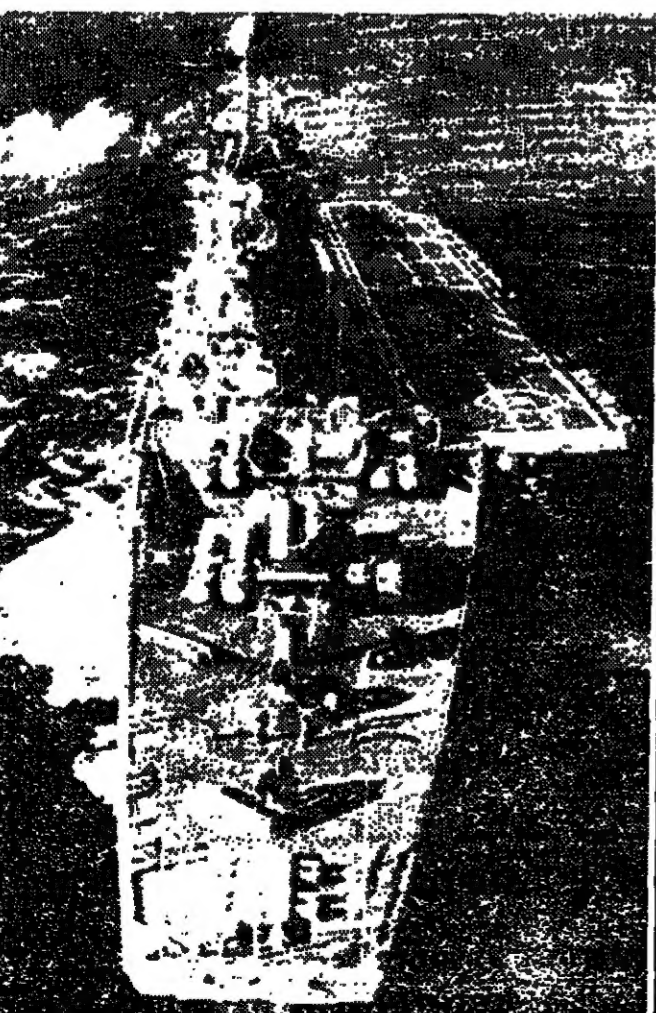
Their claims about the infiltration of west Beirut —

which have raised fears there of new air raids — are not backed with any evidence which they are prepared to make available to journalists.

Under questioning it is acknowledged that the figure is "an assessment" but it is claimed to be a conservative one.

He produced recent aerial photographs which showed that a Soviet-made T55 tank was stationed outside a building in Bhamdoun which he said was another base of the PFLP-GC, led by Ahmed Jibril, the former officer in the Syrian Army regarded by Israel as the most effective Palestinian fighter now operating. One thousand of the alleged 7,000 guerrillas there are said by the Israelis to be his men.

As during the peak of the bombing of west Beirut in 1982, the Israeli military authorities are upset about how their latest actions in Lebanon are being reported by Western press men based in Beirut. They have singled out the British press for particular criticism.



Naval might: A US Navy photograph of the new Soviet aircraft carrier Novorossiysk cruising recently in the South China Sea. The Navy said the 43,000 ton Kiev Class carrier has about 35 aircraft and is armed with surface-to-surface and surface-to-air missiles, Gatling-type guns and torpedoes.

Jakarta puts Fretilin rebels on trial

From Our Correspondent, Jakarta

In an apparent policy change, the Indonesian Government has begun trying members of the Fretilin resistance movement in civil courts on subversion charges, and has sentenced a total of 12 men to six to eight years imprisonment in the past three months.

Another 12 suspected Fretilin

members are reported to be awaiting trial in the East Timor capital of Dili. News of the first trial of five men in December reached Jakarta last month, and the official news agency, Antara, reported yesterday that another seven men, identified as school teachers, farmers and fishermen, had been sentenced.

Antara said the seven had been charged with belonging to an illegal organization in Dili, and made no mention of Fretilin.

A Department of Justice spokesman declined comment yesterday on whether the civil trials constituted a policy change.

According to military sources, some 300 to 400 armed Fretilin rebels remain in the mountains of East Timor.

Democratic race may be almost over

Buoyant Mondale moves in for the kill

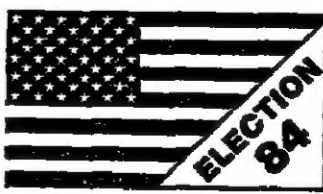
From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Has Mr Walter Mondale already got the Democratic nomination sewn up? As the eight candidates embark on their final rounds of frenetic campaigning in New Hampshire, there is a growing feeling among political observers and in the various campaign headquarters that the race may be all over by next Wednesday.

Consider the present state of the contest. Mr Mondale won more votes in last Monday's Iowa caucuses than all of his seven challengers combined. More important, he won 48 of the state's 50 elected delegates who will attend the party's nominating convention in July.

Of the 214 convention delegates who have so far expressed their candidate preferences, more than half — 127 of them — have declared themselves for Mr Mondale. This figure includes 76 of the 164 members of the House of Representatives who will be delegates in San Francisco.

By comparison, Senator John Glenn has only 17 confirmed delegates and Senator Gary Hart, who came second in Iowa, a mere six.



showing him as firmly in first place as he was in Iowa. By all accounts his organization there is every bit as efficient as it was in Iowa. And by the time voting takes place he will have spent the maximum allowed under Federal Election Commission rules.

Although New Hampshire Democrats are more conservative than they are in Iowa, it is hard to see Mr Mondale being knocked from his front-runner position, although he is not expected to win by such a large margin as he did on Monday.

If he does come first he will then enter the next, crucial stage of the race, when a cluster of 18 states hold primaries and caucuses over three weeks, as the overwhelming favourite.

The key contests during this period will be in the South and in Massachusetts. The South was considered the region where Senator Glenn had the best chance of catching up with Mr Mondale. But unless the former astronaut can reignite his campaign in New Hampshire, which seems increasingly unlikely, the trouncing which he suffered on Monday is certain to undermine his credibility among voters in Georgia,

Alabama and Florida on March 13, which has become known as "Super Tuesday".

Senator Glenn's chances in liberal Massachusetts, the only state which voted with Mr McGovern in 1972, were never rated highly. The only real issue there is whether supporters of Senator Edward Kennedy will throw their lot in with Mr Mondale or opt for Mr McGovern or Senator Hart instead.

Is there anything that can derail Mr Mondale? Probably not, although Senator Hart believes that a strong second placing by himself in New Hampshire would enhance his credibility as an alternative to the former Vice-President.

Although his organization is weak in the South, Senator Hart's staff believe there is still time to halt the Mondale juggernaut on "Super Tuesday". They expect the Rev Jesse Jackson to capture most of the black vote which might have otherwise gone to Mr Mondale, and that Mr Reubin Askew, the former Governor of Florida, will run ahead of Mr Mondale in his home state.

Spectrum, page 8

British lawyers seek end to ban on defending Grenada accused

By Our Foreign Staff

Fearing that those charged with the murder in October of Maurice Bishop, Grenadian Prime Minister, are being denied an expert defence, a foreign legal team, including Lord Gifford QC, has appealed against the Grenadian High Court's refusal this week to allow British lawyers to represent the accused.

"Grenadian lawyers will not act for the detainees," Lord Gifford told *The Times* yesterday from Grenada, after the 18 suspects charged so far had appeared handcuffed in a heavily-guarded court on Wednesday, as an angry crowd of 600 outside chanted: "Hang them all," and "murderer, murderer."

Grenada's lawyers fear being associated with the views of the accused, the British barrister said. Thirty-eight men and women are being held in Richmond Hill prison in connection with last autumn's coup and the murders of Bishop, three of his ministers and four officials.

Seven former members of the Army are charged with the murders, while others are charged with conspiracy under a 1980 terrorism law.

Those accused of conspiracy include Mr Bernard Coard, the former Deputy Prime Minister and Bishop's rival. Their cases stand adjourned until April.

All 38 detainees are being represented by Miss Jacqueline Samuels-Brown, a Jamaican lawyer who under Grenadian law is permitted to practice in Grenada. The High Court has ruled that this law implicitly excludes non-Caribbean lawyers from acting in the island.

The Appeal Court will not hear Lord Gifford's appeal against this ruling until May. In the meantime, Lord Gifford said, the prison governor, Mr Lionel Maloney of Barbados,

has further restricted Miss Samuels-Brown's access to the accused. She now can see her 38 clients only three days a week for a total of 30 minutes each day.

Lord Gifford, Miss Samuels-Brown and Miss Sarah Burton, a London solicitor, are "discussing what further steps can be taken to ensure a full defence," Lord Gifford said yesterday. The Britons are being sponsored by the London Committee for Human Rights in Grenada. British officials in Grenada are also monitoring the judicial process.

The trial of those alleged to have been involved in the shooting of Mr Bishop and his friends and supporters will take place at the small assize court in St George's. But Grenada is bankrupt - it can barely afford to pay its civil servants, teachers and police - and needs assistance to meet the expense of a trial.

Mr Nicholas Brathwaite, chairman of the interim administration, said he hoped that a working for the Canadian Government, will be lent by the Canadians to take up the post of director of prosecutions, and that a British barrister will be paid by the Commonwealth to lead the prosecuting team. The Barbados Bar Society has also promised assistance.

Along with the difficulties of collecting evidence and framing charges, and finding ways to finance the trial, there is another complication. Grenadians are anxious to see the detainees tried, but a trial could be lengthy and a rouser of strong feelings. The Government does not want it to clash with the election promised for later this year.

Hint of solution to Cambodia problem

From David Watts, Bandar Seri Bagawan, Brunei

Vietnam now appears as eager as the countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) to get out of the Cambodian dilemma.

But Hanoi has yet to show its hand, according to General Benny Murdani, Chief of Staff of the Indonesian armed forces, who recently visited Vietnam.

The principle clue that Hanoi may be ready to consider an accommodation is that the Vietnamese Army has not launched its annual dry-season offensive against the Cambodian resistance this year. The attack usually comes as soon as the monsoon rains cease and the battlefield advantage swings to conventional tactics.

The Vietnamese have held back in spite of some striking operational successes claimed by the Khmer Rouge in recent weeks, including the taking and temporary holding of two towns in Battambang province.

General Murdani, who has visited Vietnam in the past as the personal emissary of President Suharto, caused consternation when he said in Hanoi that he did not consider Vietnam a threat to South-East Asia, the cornerstone of Asean's demand for the withdrawal of Vietnam's 180,000 troops has always been that its presence in

Cambodia threatened Thailand. The general told *The Times* yesterday that his remarks did not imply that he was happy with the continued presence of Vietnam's men in Cambodia. He maintained that Asean's diplomatic position remained firmly behind Vietnam's withdrawal and the holding of elections, but there have been signs of flexibility since last year's non-aligned meeting in Delhi.

Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Savetila, the Thai Foreign Minister, who, like General Murdani, is attending Brunei's National Day celebrations, said there were prospects for progress when the Vietnamese Foreign Minister, Mr Nguyen Co Thach, visits both Indonesia and Australia next month.

Australia, under the Labour Government, has been pursuing a role as broker between Asean and Vietnam. Along with the Belgians the Australians appealed to Hanoi not to attack the Cambodian guerrillas this year.

General Murdani has invited the Vietnamese to appoint a military attaché in Jakarta, and called on his Vietnamese counterpart, General Van Tien Dung, to visit Indonesia.

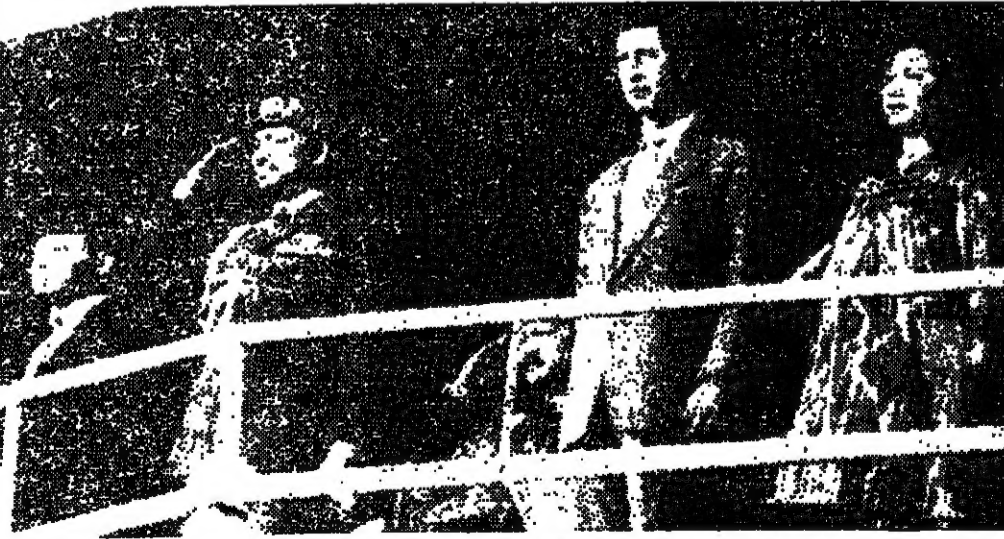
The Brunei party to end all parties

From Our Own Correspondent Bandar Seri Bagawan, Brunei

Not since the fantasies of The Arabian Nights has there been anything quite like it. In a 350-acre palace, more than 4,000 guests celebrated independent Brunei's first National Day last night with a banquet to match the scale of the gold-domed building.

After a day in which he was treated as Brunei's most important guest of government representatives, the Prince of Wales joined kings and presidents in a celebration which is unlikely to be repeated.

Royalty and heads of state sat amid the palace's 16 acres of marble halls, with the lesser luminaries outside in warm beezers, for the high point of Brunei's multi-million-pound national party. Thirteen vast crystal chandeliers hung over the top table where the Sultan, Sir Muda Hassanah Bolkiah, marked the re-emergence in



Solemn moment: The King of Brunei and the Prince of Wales at the celebrations.

full independence of the 400-year-old sultanate.

The day began early at the National Stadium. Journalists covering a rally of the majority of the tiny country's population had to leave their hotels at 4.30 in the morning.

Prince Charles, in a grey suit and cream tie, took his place to the left of the Sultan, as the honoured guest though, strictly speaking, in Brunei's complex

four-tier protocol system he was out-ranked by the King of Malaysia to the Sultan's right.

The Prince sat next to Pengiran Hajia Mariam, the second of the Sultan's two wives, an attractive former air hostess in rich green Malay dress. She excitedly pointed out some of the finer points of the display, which was watched by about 50,000 Bruneians.

But the Sultan had another surprise. Not only did every senior foreign visitor have the use of a Rolls-Royce from the Sultan's personal stable of 110 cars, but he appeared in his latest acquisition from Derby, a long-wheel-base Rolls-Royce with six doors.

But then the Sultan did not have to ask the price. This year the Sultanate will earn about £3 billion in oil and gas revenues and spend half of it.

News agencies say the Army is being consulted by both states with a view to restoring peace.

Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, has told members of her party that the Government would not allow anyone to use a place of worship for stockpiling arms and harbouring people wanted by the authorities.

There are reports that Sikh extremists take shelter in

gurdwaras, Sikh temples, after killing Hindus.

The point that religious places were being used by terrorists was also made by President Giani Zail Singh. This part of his speech was reported to have been put in by the Government.

Mrs Gandhi has said that terrorists seemed to be getting the upper hand.

David the 'bubble boy' dies after two weeks of freedom



David, the 12-year-old boy who spent almost all his life in a germ-free 'bubble', has died in hospital in Houston, Texas.

He is shown above at the ages of three, six and twelve.

He was born with no immunity to disease, and died on Wednesday night of complications

apparently caused by a transplant of bone marrow last October from his sister Katherine, aged 15.

David was released from his sterile quarters two weeks ago. He had fallen ill for the first time in his life and needed special treatment for fever.

He then suffered intestinal bleeding and a stomach ulcer. His condition became critical after

fluid had to be drained from around his heart and lungs.

He was known only as David to protect his family's privacy, and spent most of his life in Houston's Texas Children's Hospital.

In recent years he was able to live at home in a specially sealed room where he had school lessons over closed-circuit television.

Basque election challenges González policies

From Richard Wigg, Vitoria

In the Basque country, February is proving a cruel month for Spain's 14-month-old Socialist government. The unexpectedly long honeymoon is over as a general election in this stubbornly autonomous region on Sunday challenges the González government's handling of a severe local economic crisis and of the endemic terrorist problem.

While Madrid puts overriding emphasis on combating Eta, Basque opinion is clearly more worried by the depression. Proportionately, three times more jobs were lost here in an eight-year period than in Britain. Unemployment is running at more than 20 per cent and the figure will rise further if central government plans to restructure the Basque region's big industries such as steel and shipbuilding get under way this year.

The job shedding has aggravated the divisions between native-born Basques and the rest of the population. Exacerbated nationalism provides an additional ugly element to a bitterly fought campaign. Eta alone benefits from the depression to which its still widely levied "revolutionary tax" on Basque businessmen has significantly contributed.

Facing unkept election promises

Triumphant in the national election on the slogan promising the creation of 800,000 jobs throughout Spain, the Socialist Party now has to present itself with such unkept promises.

Facing Jose Maria Benegas, their rigid and not very inspiring leader in the Basque country, is Carlos Garaicoechea, the smiling and astute chief minister in the outgoing Basque autonomous government.

In the past four years the middle-of-the-road Basque Nationalist Party (PNV) which he leads, has recreated the appearance of an autonomous government lost by the Basques at the end of the civil war.

People's Unity has seized on the unemployment issue to dispute the working-class vote with the Socialists. The campaign has been grimly spattered with the blood of Eta victims, including a general and members of the mysterious "Liberation from Terrorism" groups (GAL).

GAL, which has killed four suspected Eta leaders in the Basque region of south-west France, has been a godsend for People's Unity, a card to be played against Madrid for the PNV, and an embarrassment for the Socialists.

Spain gives Verdi's Don Carlo a reprieve

From Richard Wigg Madrid

Spain's bureaucracy has been obliged by public outcry to relent and allow Verdi's opera *Don Carlo* to be staged this summer with a star cast at the Escorial, the sixteenth-century royal palace and monastery built for King Philip II.

The highly unfavourable portrayal of the king, and his relations with his son, Don Carlos, caused the official body supervising all the royal estates to rule last November that staging the opera at the very site where the king had lived would be "unseemly". It would only contribute abroad to the so-called "black legend" of Spanish history, they maintained.

After suffering weeks of ridicule the body, whose chairman is the Marquis of Mondejar, the head of the royal household, relented at an emergency meeting on Wednesday night. They evidently realized that the previous stand was itself reviving past images of an obscurantist Spain.

If things go well, the Spanish tenor Jose Carreras will sing the title role in a production directed by Franco Zeffirelli, with the orchestra and chorus of La Scala. Milan conducted by Leonard Bernstein. Spanish state television hopes to sell the filmed opera afterwards around the world. One problem the organizers have apparently overlooked is that the exact site, the royal palace, presents serious acoustic problems.

Verdi's libretto is based on the Schiller's play, which highlights all the key elements of the black legend about Spain - besides the king himself, the Inquisition and the freedom struggle in Flanders with which Don Carlos is portrayed as sympathizing.

Cardinal Sin speaks out

From Keith Dalton, Manila

Marcos warned of bloodshed threat

The Philippines' Primate, Cardinal Jaime Sin, yesterday warned President Marcos that he risked nationwide violence and bloodshed if he did not agree to the conditions demanded by the opposition before they would contest May's elections for the National Assembly.

The united opposition's six-point proposal, issued last month, "to ensure free and honest elections" would strip Mr Marcos, who is 66, of much of his autocratic powers.

The opposition is also demanding wide-ranging electoral reforms (some of which have been granted) and a general amnesty for an estimated 900 political prisoners.

These demands are reasonable and within the power of Mr Marcos to grant, Cardinal Sin told a Rotary Club luncheon.

He said every Filipino had a right to clean elections, and to deny them this right was to commit an injustice.

"If we do not solve this problem through the ballot, I am just too afraid that we might solve it through violence. I would not like to see blood running in our streets," he said.

Cardinal Sin called on the people to vote in the elections despite a boycott call by some opposition groups after Mr Marcos failed to agree to their demands by February 14, three months before polling day.



Cardinal Sin: Plea to Philippine electors.

76 saved from oil rig in Atlantic

From John Best Ottawa

The 76-member crew of a drilling rig was rescued from lifeboats in the North Atlantic yesterday, after being forced to abandon the platform late on Wednesday night.

The crew of the rig, Vinland, took to the boats when a blow-out occurred at a natural gas well off Sable Island, a 25-mile-long sand spit 175-miles east of Halifax.

In a blow-out, gas combined with mud and rock shoots up

from the drill hole, often causing fire and destruction on the rig.

The rig apparently stayed afloat. After a chilly night in two enclosed lifeboats, the crew were taken aboard supply vessels in the vicinity.

Colonels accused of influencing voters

From John Carlin, San Salvador

Salvadoran Army colonels have been accused of disobeying explicit directives from the Armed Forces High Command to stay out of politics and using their power to influence the outcome of the Presidential election on March 25.

Leaders of El Salvador's biggest labour organization, the Popular Democratic Unity (UPD), which has 500,000 members, made this accusation on Wednesday, noting that officers had been ordered by the Armed Forces Chief of Staff, in a break with Salvadoran tradition - to keep their political views strictly to themselves during the electoral process. Labour spokesmen said at least five colonels were allegedly disobeying these instructions.

Independent political sources and labour spokesmen named Colonel Rolando Ramos, who is based in San Salvador and is a committed supporter of Major Roberto D'Aubuisson's right-wing Republican Nationalist Alliance (ARENA).

They claimed that Colonel Ramos's men had given youths in San Marcos, 18 miles west of the capital, the choice of joining the Army or becoming an active ARENA campaign worker.

An associate of Major D'Aubuisson, Colonel Mario Denis Moran, has also been accused of using his position as regional commander in the province of La Paz to influence the voting.

Colonel Moran is said to have changed his views and become a persuasive ally of the dark horse candidate in the elections, Dr Francisco Guerrero, of the National Conciliation Party (PCN).

The Mayor of the provincial capital of La Paz, Zacatecoluca, who is a PCN supporter, said Colonel Moran and other

officers were accompanying him on electoral campaign trips around the province. "We have close ties with the commanders," the Mayor said. He is a 14-year veteran of the PCN, a party of the Salvadoran establishment with a more restrained right-wing stance than ARENA.

Christian Democrats in Zacatecoluca say that local people have been intimidated by the colonel against voting for their candidate, Señor José Napoleón Duarte. "More than anything else the Army is anti-Christian Democrat," Dr Guerrero said. Some officers against whom evidence of political participation has been collected are supporting the PCN. Others are for ARENA, but the Christian Democrats are almost universally reviled among the military because of the fear that Señor Duarte will carry out a purge in the manner of President Alfonsín in Argentina, if he comes to power.

There is evidence, too, that ARENA is losing support among previously loyal military men fearful that a cut in US aid following a d'Aubuisson victory could hand military victory to the left-wing guerrillas and destroy the army as an institution.

The PCN is consequently emerging as a serious competitor for the right-wing vote.

Cameroon trial

Yaoundé (AFP) - Former Cameroon President Ahmadou Ahidjo is one of three people accused of plotting against the state in a trial which opened here. He is being tried in absentia, but two aides accused with him were in court.

Argentina's former air chief faces arrest

From Douglas Tweedale Buenos Aires

Brigadier Basilio Lami Dozo, the former commander of the Argentine Air Force, faced probable arrest yesterday as he went before the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces to give evidence on his role in the Falklands War.

His arrest would complete the detention of the members of the military junta which ordered the invasion of the Falklands on April 2, 1982 and set off the 14-week war which left more than 800 Argentine soldiers dead.

On Wednesday the Supreme Council ordered the arrest of Admiral Jorge Anaya, the former Navy commander, who was one of the early advocates of the invasion, but kept virtually all the Navy's ships out of action for fear of attack by British nuclear-powered submarines after the sinking of the cruiser, General Belgrano.

Admiral Anaya was being held yesterday at the Navy Mechanics' School in Buenos Aires, a site believed to have been used as a secret detention centre by the Navy during the military's campaign to exterminate left-wing dissidents in the 1970s.

The former President, General Leopoldo Galtieri, the third member of the junta which ordered the invasion, was arrested by the same military court on Tuesday, and is being held at the Campo de Mayo Army base on the outskirts of Buenos Aires.

The Supreme Council is court-martialling General Galtieri, Admiral Anaya, Brigadier Lami Dozo and 11 other officers for their part in the ill-fated war, after a special military commission accused them of negligent planning, inadequate preparation and military and diplomatic bungling once the fighting began.

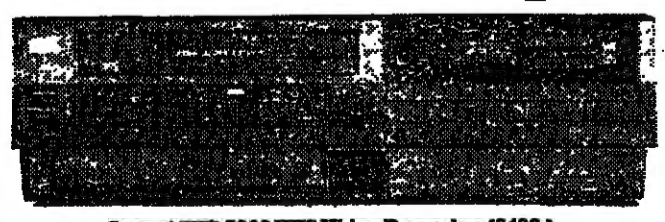
Although the court's proceedings are secret, a military source said it could reach a verdict in the cases of the three junta members between two weeks and a month from now.

The arrest of General Galtieri and his top commanders is simply a "preventive measure", the source said, based on a presumption that they are guilty of at least some of the crimes of which they are accused.

Possible delays in the Falklands War trials could arise from the fact that the Supreme Council, made up of three representatives each from the Army, Navy and Air Force, is already trying 10 senior military officers accused by President Raúl Alfonsín of responsibility for human rights atrocities under the military regime which stepped down last December.

Proceedings have already begun in the human rights trial, and the nine members of the first three military juntas to hold power (including General Galtieri) have been notified of the charges against them.

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SPECTRUM

THE TIMES
GUIDE TO THE US PRIMARIES

Godfrey Hodgson traces changing fashions for primaries and caucuses in American elections and identifies (below) key dates and developments

The rise and fall of the presidential primary

The result of this week's Iowa precinct caucuses does more than establish Walter "Fritz" Mondale as the favourite to stand against Mr Reagan in November for the Democratic Party. It also illustrates the complex rules for choosing presidential candidates are constantly changing, under the twin pressures of campaign strategy and the voracious need of the press and television for a new story.

Mr Mondale won almost 50 per cent of the votes on Monday night in Iowa, not in a primary election - though you might be forgiven for thinking so - but in a souped-up version of the device which primaries were invented to replace in the early years of this century: the caucus, or party meeting.

American presidential candidates are chosen by the two major parties at their nominating conventions. The convention delegates will be chosen over the next four months by two basic

methods, each of which has many variants.

In some states, they will be chosen in caucuses: in others they will be chosen in primary elections by either all voters in the states or all registered voters of each party. And the system has now spawned a hybrid between the caucus and the primary.

Primaries were first introduced in the Progressive Era of reform, in the early years of this century, as a way of making the choice of candidates more democratic (small d) and of breaking the power of the party bosses.

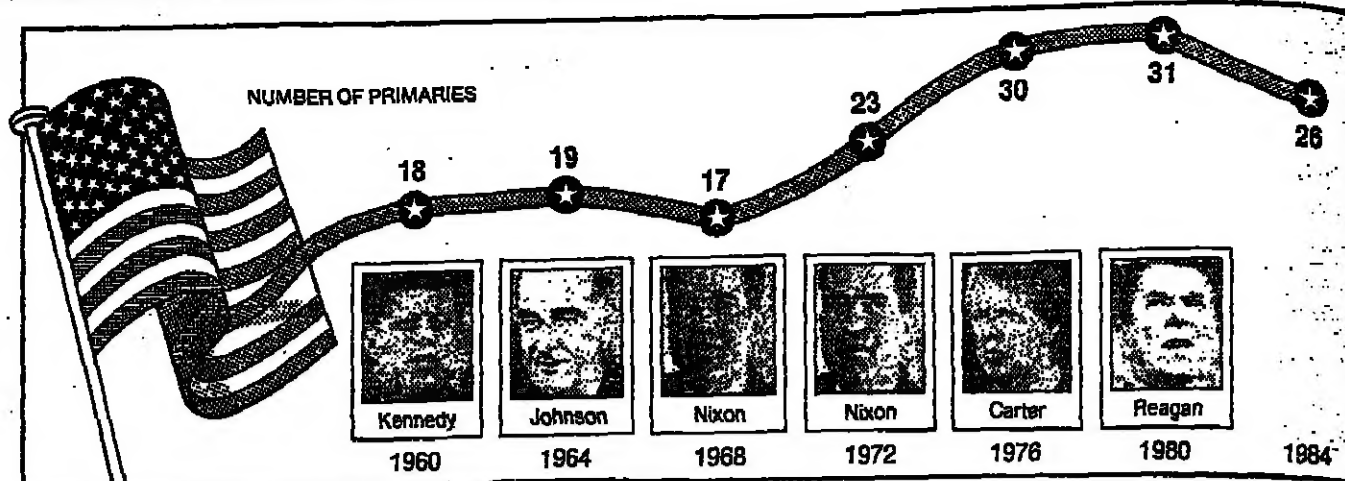
By the 1950s they were thought of as slightly quaint and old-fashioned. Harry Truman, Adlai Stevenson and Hubert Humphrey all had some contemptuous things to say about them.

The primary was revived by the political charisma of John F. Kennedy, and by the attention his 1960 cam-

paign attracted in the media. Most of all, it was the lush prose of Theodore H. White, in his best-seller, *The Making of the President 1980*, that created a primary.

The two primaries that mattered for Kennedy in 1960 were in Wisconsin and in West Virginia. The great question about Kennedy as candidate was whether the American voters were ready to accept a Roman Catholic president.

The Wisconsin primary was ominous for Kennedy because, although he won, he did well in districts with many Catholics and poorly in the strongly Protestant areas. So Kennedy had no alternative but to campaign frontally on the religious issue in West Virginia, where 95 per cent of the voters were Protestants. He did, he triumphed, and he went on to lay to rest the idea that a Roman Catholic could not lead the country.



For the next 20 years primaries looked like the modern, democratic way to choose delegates to the party conventions. Compared to caucuses, which were generally portrayed as sordid, old-fashioned and boss-ridden.

Then along came Jimmy Carter. He had a different point to prove: as a Southerner he needed to show that he could have national as well as merely regional appeal. No one from the Deep South had been president since the Civil War except Lyndon Johnson.

New Hampshire was not promising for Carter, and several of the next primaries in the calendar were in the South and would prove nothing. Yet Carter needed a flying start. So he and his young campaign strategist, Hamilton Jordan, hit on the idea of treating the Iowa precinct caucuses, before the New Hampshire primary, as if they were a primary.

Several thousand Democratic loyal-

ists would meet in every precinct in the state and choose their delegates to the convention. Carter quietly met them and put himself across. National newspapers such as the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* reported what he was doing. So when he came and easy first in the precinct caucuses, the television cameras were there to record it as a major political event.

It was the end of 20 years when primaries had been the focus of media attention. After 1960, and especially after 1968, they had grown rapidly in number. The latter years produced perhaps the most exciting primary campaign of all, with both Eugene McCarthy and Robert Kennedy challenging the incumbent President Johnson in the primaries, not to mention Hubert Humphrey, the eventual candidate, who did not run in any primaries, or George Wallace, who ran as a third-party candidate.

After that, the number of states holding primaries grew quickly. There were 23 in 1972, 30 in 1976, and 31 in 1980. Four years ago, many political scientists might have predicted that by the end of the century virtually all convention delegates would be chosen in primaries.

But this year the number of primaries is down, to 26, and the number of caucuses is up, to 25. The number adds up to 51 because the District of Columbia counts as a state for this purpose.

Few caucuses will attract as many participants as the 84,000 who took part in Monday's Iowa decision. At that rate of participation, the difference between a primary and a caucus, once seen as antithetical, had almost withered away. It is just one little example of the influence the media now have on the American political system.

The most important function of the primaries that begin with the vote in New Hampshire on February 28 is the self-evident one: to enable candidates to accumulate delegates committed to vote for them at the conventions. With Reagan assured of the Republican nomination, all interest will be focused on the Democrats.

But delegate-hunting is not the only purpose of the primaries for the candidates. There are plenty of other points to watch in the results between February 28 and the last primaries in California, New Jersey, New Mexico, South Dakota and West Virginia on June 5.

Coalitions

The Iowa result would seem to have almost completely eliminated the former astronaut, Senator John Glenn of Ohio, previously thought to be Mondale's strongest rival. However, three liberal candidates, Senator Gary Hart of Colorado, former senator George McGovern of South Dakota, and Senator Alan Cranston of California won 34 per cent of the votes in Iowa against 49 per cent for Mondale.

If two of these candidates were to drop out, the survivor would inherit most of their support. So watch out for coalitions of candidates and for candidates dropping out. If, say McGovern and Cranston were to drop out, leaving Hart as the liberal standard-bearer, Mondale's position would be transformed: instead of being the champion of the left of the party against the conservative Glenn, he would find himself willingly as the more conservative candidate.

Gender gap

Early results will confirm whether or not Reagan is handicapped as much as polls have suggested by the "gender gap". In January 1981, when



Primary revival: John Kennedy capturing the Democratic nomination in 1960

Reagan became president, 54 per cent of men approved of him, according to the Gallup Poll; late last year his approval rate with men was still running at just over 50 per cent. Women were more likely to disapprove of him then, and they are now far more hostile: only 42 per cent women approved of him in late 1983, as against 48 per cent in early 1981.

The reason for Reagan's unpopularity with women, it appears from the polls, is not so much his attitude to women's issues (although the highly publicized resignation of the woman responsible for reviewing gender-discriminatory legislation in the Justice Department last year was only one of many incidents which have infuriated women's organizations). Women are more likely to be critical of the President because they oppose the President's military policies, and because many of them have been hurt by the administration's economic policy.

With women forming more than half the electorate, and with the same voting turn-out rate as men, the presidential candidate can afford to ignore them as Reagan has done.

Blacks

No postwar president comes even close to being as unpopular as Reagan with black voters.

In 1980 Reagan won only 3 per cent of the more than four million votes cast by blacks in the 11 Southern states. In the past, blacks, especially in the South, have been significantly less likely to register and to vote than whites. In those 11 states Reagan's margin of victory was less than the number of eligible blacks yet to register. But now blacks are registering in large numbers, and their turnout is approaching that of whites. This could be another danger signal for Reagan, whose economic policies have hurt blacks, a predominantly low-income group, and favoured high-income whites.

Predictions

Candidates in primaries (and those caucuses notified by the media) are judged not only in absolute but also in comparative terms: in other words not only by what proportion of the

vote they get, but also by whether they have done better or worse than predicted. In 1968, Eugene McCarthy did not win more votes than President Johnson. But the fact that he came so close and did far better than expected helped to put Johnson on the slide that ended with his withdrawal after another disappointing showing in Wisconsin. So how the media report a candidate's performance has a crucial influence on his standing, and therefore on his ability to continue to raise money for television advertising and other necessary expenditure.

Reform?

In the recent past there has been much criticism of the long drawn-out primary calendar. Critics argue that it favours well-financed candidates and gives them an unfair advantage, and suggest that there should be

a single national primary with all states voting on one day. Since that looks impracticable, it has also been suggested that primaries should be grouped together in regional primaries so that, for example, all Southern, Western, or New England states voting on the same day.

MAIN EVENTS

February 28 New Hampshire Primary Being the first state to hold a primary has been worth so much to New Hampshire, a relatively poor and obscure state, in both publicity and income from spending by candidates and television, that the state legislature has passed a law saying that New Hampshire will always have its primary before anyone else. Now Iowa has blunted New Hampshire's primary. But next week's primary will still be an important test for Mondale and the field.

March 4: Maine precinct caucuses (There have in fact already been precinct caucuses in half a dozen states before Iowa, all involving only Republicans, however.)

March 13: Primaries in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and for democrats abroad

Caucuses in Hawaii, Nevada, Oklahoma, and the state of Washington. "Fat Tuesday". This will be the first opportunity to see up large groups of delegates. Altogether 377 Democratic delegates will be chosen in primaries and another 170 in caucuses on the same day; 143 of those will be in Florida and 116 in Massachusetts.

March 14: Caucuses in Alaska, Delaware, North Dakota

March 17: Caucuses in Arkansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi and South Carolina. A big northern industrial state

May 1: Primaries in District of Columbia, Tennessee

May 5: Texas precinct caucuses

Texas primary

The Texas primary is a non-

with plenty of economic troubles: Michigan with 155 delegates. And a Southern regional group of caucuses with 196 delegates between them.

March 18 Primary in Puerto Rico

March 20 Illinois Primary Minnesota caucus Illinois has 194 delegates, the fifth biggest block. It will also be a major test of black voting intentions, having more registered black voters than any other state. The first black candidate in history, the Rev Jesse Jackson, is a native son. Will blacks vote for him or for a white liberal?

March 24 Kansas caucuses

March 25 Montana caucuses

March 27 Connecticut primary

April 3 New York primary, Wisconsin primary

The second biggest state with 285 delegates. Intense media glare in the national press and network television's hometown. And Wisconsin, where Robert La Follette helped to introduce the primary, always a classic test of the Midwest's mood.

April 7 Louisiana primary Arizona caucuses

April 24 Primaries in Pennsylvania and Vermont

Pennsylvania is the fourth-biggest state, with lots of blacks, lots of ailing "smokestack" industries, lots of union members good Mondale country.

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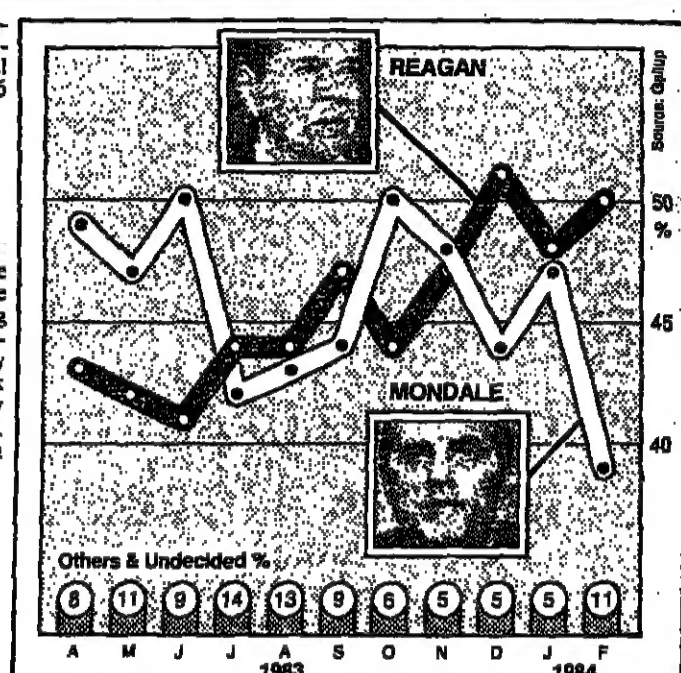
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May 1 Primaries in District of Columbia, Tennessee

May 5 Texas precinct caucuses

Texas primary

The Texas primary is a non-



binding "beauty contest primary". The caucuses are serious stuff to choose 200 delegates in the third most populous state where women, blacks and Hispanic-Americans are all asserting themselves, and where they succeeded in electing a Democratic governor in 1982.

May 7 Colorado precinct caucuses Will Senator Hart still be alive to pick up 51 home-state votes?

May 8 Primaries in Indiana, Maryland, North Carolina and Ohio

Indiana and Ohio, with 263 delegates between them, would have the makings of a regional mid-western primary if they could get Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin to join them. If Senator Glenn is not grounded by early May this would be ideal territory for a comeback, as these are conservative Democratic states.

May 15 Nebraska and Oregon primaries

June 5 Primaries in California, New Jersey, New Mexico, South Dakota and West Virginia

The number of delegates and the variety of states involved in this fastest of Tuesdays makes it a sort of shadow national primary. Altogether the states

voting on June 5 will send 558 delegates to San Francisco, 345 of them from California, the Golden State, alone.

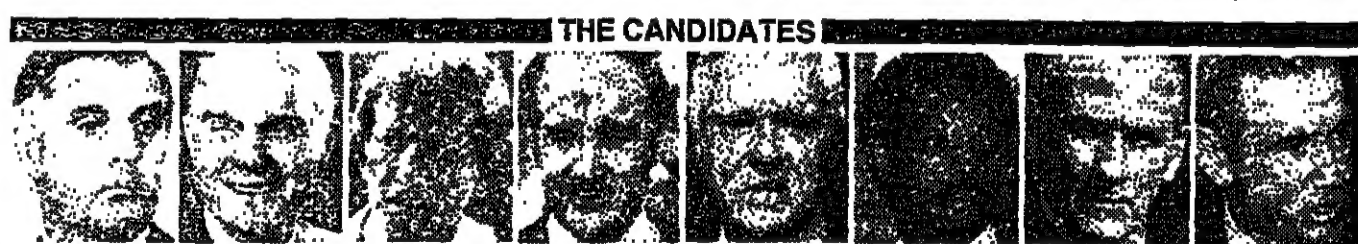
After the California primary, the various states will still have to choose "unpledged" delegates. These are 566 party officials, and senators or congressmen who are being chosen separately this year. This is to put right the consequences of the attempt to democratize the party by the McGovern commission in 1971.

As a result of efforts to improve representation of blacks, women and young people at the 1972 convention, many leading party figures, including Mayor Daley of Chicago and important union leaders, found they were not delegates. The effects were extremely divisive. This year the party is seeking to heal the old split between professionals and activists.

July 16 Democratic convention opens in San Francisco.

August 20 Republican convention opens in Dallas.

A revised edition of Godfrey Hodgson's book on the American presidency, *All Things to All Men*, is to be published by Penguin this summer.



Walter Mondale John Glenn Gary Hart George McGovern Ernest Hollings Jesse Jackson Alan Cranston Reubin Askew

Tomorrow

START THE WEEKEND WITH THE PAPER THAT INFORMS, STIMULATES, AMUSES AND PROVOKES

● **Waiting for the word:** Bryan Appleyard watches Samuel Beckett at work

● **Fortunes at stake:** A glimpse inside London's gambling world

● **Pilgrimages:** Prayer wheels in Tibet; gastronomy in the Basque country

● **Sport:** Preview of rugby's John Player Cup

PLUS: News from home and abroad; Family Money on taxation and the single parent review of classical records; a critical guide to the week's arts; Values: Eating Out; Drink; In the Garden; Bridges; Chess and the prize crossword



From left, Bud Thorpe, Walter Asmus, Samuel Beckett at rehearsal in London

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Willst be discreet, not standing with the light behind?

You may have read in the newspapers that Prince Andrew has got a new girl friend, you probably thought to yourself at the time: I see that Prince Andrew has got a new girl friend. Or perhaps you thought: I wonder if there's any proper news in this damned newspaper. What you almost certainly didn't realize is that behind such a brief announcement lies an exhausting amount of royal ritual and ceremony, which must always take place the same way.

It starts with the age-old exchange between prince and proposed girl friend, which goes like this:

Prince: Willst thou be my girl friend?
Girl: I willst.

Prince: Dost promise to be discreet? To smile at the press? Not to stand around in thin dresses with the light behind?

Girl: I do.

Prince: Canst come and see my Mum some time next week?

Girl: Canst.

Prince: I now pronounce us prince and girl friend.

Girl: What about the bit about my not seeing your letters to the press?

Prince: There won't be any letters. I've learnt my lesson.

the Palace. There is a rather touching ceremony at the entrance.

Guard: Who goes there?
Prince: The prince.

Guard: The prince and who?
Prince: The prince's girl friend.

Guard: Advance, girl friend, and be recognized.

Prince: She's new, actually.

Guard: Blimey, it's all go round here.

The prince will then take his friend upstairs, unless this takes place at Sandringham, in which case they shall both don gum boots and go out into the kitchen garden or stables. Leading the girl friend by the hand, the prince shall then say:-

Prince: Hello, Mum, this is (here he shall use her name)....

Queen: I am pleased to meet you. How long have you been doing this sort of thing?

Prince: Mum! Please - we're not touring a factory now. Where's Dad?

Queen: I believe he's writing an introduction for a book about wild life.

Prince: That's the spirit. Well, I'm just going to take (here he shall use her name again) for a spin in a helicopter.

Queen: Don't be late for dinner. Charles and Spike Milligan are dropping in again.

The prince shall then take the girl friend up in a helicopter loaned by the R.N., where he shall turn to her and say:

Prince: I think she really liked you. You could tell by the way she let you help brush the dogs. Do you see those people in the potato field down there? They're photographers from the Sun. Did you know the Sun has more people covering Sandringham than the rest of the world put together? So Dad says.

Girl: I'm sorry - I can't see your lips moving, but I can't hear a single word in this helicopter.

Prince: What?

The final part of the ceremony is known as Meeting the Press. This takes place outside the girl friend's home at 8.15 am, as she leaves for work. When she opens the door, the press shall say:-

Press: Blimey, girl, you took us by surprise, can you just go in again and then come out once more? Big smile, that's the way. Lots of happiness, this is your big day, going out with the Prince and all that, hold it! Look this way, look that way, love, you play ball with us and we'll play ball with what's he like then, have you met the Queen, is it wedding bells, just

one more, that's it, now one more for luck.

Girl: Goodness - is it always like this?

Press: 'Fraid so, love.

The girl friend then goes to work looking very thoughtful, reflecting that it's all going to be harder work than she thought, but that at least she's going to get the chance to meet in person people like Spike Milligan.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 276)

ACROSS	1 Make request (7)	5 Wipes dirt (5)	8 In the past (3)	9 Premier's council (7)	10 World refugee body (1,1,1,1,1)	11 Joy (4)	12 Trusting (7)	14 Nocturnal guard (5,8)	16 Sinful (7)	18 Hop kiln (4)	21 Potassium nitrate (5)	22 Nutty ice cream (7)	23 Dry wine (3)	24 Fragrant iris (5)	25 Put in order (7)
DOWN	1 Ill (4)	2 Written defamation (5)	3 Vanity (13)	4 Genghis Khan's tribe (5)	5 Betrayer (6,7)	6 Scornful language (7)	7 Knobbly silk (8)	13 Insinuation (8)	15 Joker (7)	17 Lance-leaved lily (5)	19 Espana (5)	20 Detest (4)			

SOLUTION TO No 275
ACROSS: 1 Myopic 5 Hereby 8 Orb 9 Garter 10 Otolite 11 Otio 12 Cub
25 Under 26 Okeana
DOWN: 2 Venet 3 Pot pourri 4 Cornicle 5 H Bomb 6 Roi 7 Bascule
13 Castigate 15 Unladen 16 Macrae 18 Udder 19 Even 22 ECT

Not drinking can be the devil

George Orwell was really warning us about the totalitarian state - for the last few weeks it has hardly been possible to switch on the television set, or open a newspaper, without coming across someone discussing his or her drink problem.

I used to think that as long as you could walk straight, 95 per cent of the time, there was no need to worry. Now, apparently there is a whole new drink theory. It all depends on how frequently you drink rather than on whether you are drunk or sober. If people think they have a drink problem, why don't they give up completely? Counting the glasses like calories is surely the quickest way to a neurotic obsession with the stuff. The answer, of course, is that not drinking at all is a serious social handicap.

I have been married to a teetotaler for nine years, and even people who knew my husband long before he met me still ask him, "don't you ever drink?" They don't seem to be non-smokers. Other manifestations of a virtuous lifestyle, such as jogging, giving up fags, doing aerobics, meet with approval.

My husband usually causes far more inconvenience at a social gathering than any drunk. Dinner-party hosts looted up to produce any cocktail known to man are thrown by a request for water, or something soft. "You can't just have that," they say, commandeering the kids' squash or coke and decking it out in ice-cream and a cherry to look "grown up". Dinner is half an hour late while a search party is sent out for the Perrier.

My husband doesn't drink, because he doesn't like the taste of alcohol and can live happily

COMMENT

without the effect. People find this hard to fathom. "Why, don't you approve?" they ask aggressively. The other favourite question is, "Is it for medical reasons?" I have discovered that there are all kinds of unmentionable diseases for which the cure involves temporary abstinence from the bottle. Then there is the scientific research, apparently reported all the time in the newspapers, which proves that people who drink live longer than those who don't.

The admission that he is both a teetotaler and a Fleet Street journalist usually produces the biggest laugh of all - clearly it is a self-imposed penalty after a youth mispent on the floor of El Vino's. He only ever goes there to pick me up, of course.

Not drinking can cut you off from other people - the social fabric of life is steeped in booze. So is the language. "Come and have a drink" rarely has anything to do with thirst. It is usually an excuse for a bit of intrigue and gossip out of office. Occasionally it seems "I am thinking of firing you", perhaps that is why my beloved has remained in gainful employment for so long. Even more occasionally it means, "I am thinking of promoting you" - alas we seem likely never to know.

When we first got married he went to parties with me. Now he usually stays for half an hour then goes and leaves me to enjoy myself while he looks for somewhere to sit and watch *Match of the Day*. Ironically, usually the nearest pub.

Maggie Drummond

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Breathless speculation

Kremlin watchers have diagnosed Mr Chernenko's shortness of breath and persistent cough as being due to chronic bronchitis and emphysema. Chronic bronchitis results from the persistent inflammation of the tubes leading to the lungs so that the tubes often become clogged with pus and mucus. Airway obstruction is further increased by spasm in the wall of the tubes. Emphysema, which causes symptoms in 15 per cent of elderly men, is the term used to describe the breakdown of the walls between the sacs in spongy lung tissue, so that the airspaces, the holes in the sponge, become enlarged with a consequent reduction in the lung surface available for taking up oxygen from the atmosphere.

Few would argue with the likelihood of the television commentators' diagnosis, but

their estimates of its effect on Mr Chernenko's life span, must, without access to the results of lung function tests, be absolutely meaningless: with such tests the influence of lung disease on life expectancy can be forecast with reasonable accuracy.

As Mr Chernenko is 72, chronic chest disease, with the possible risk that it may lead to heart failure, is only one of the many considerations which would have to be taken into account when assessing probable longevity.

Those who watched Mr Andropov's funeral may have been misled as to the true extent of his successor's breathlessness, for, as the Russian leader is known to have a profound dislike for public speaking, the tension and anxiety induced by this occasion would exaggerate it.



Chernenko (left): public speaking will heighten his bronchitis

Acne help

The Conservative Whip's Office used to recommend a particularly skilful photographer who could be guaranteed to touch up a portrait of the most acne-scarred face so that it could smile healthily from 2,000 election posters. In the Chester field by-election Mr Giancarlo Piccaro decided that, whatever its effect on the ballot box, he is going to parade his spots. He says he is standing to draw attention to the plight of fellow sufferers and the very little that medicine can do for them.

Mr Piccaro's motive is worthy but his facts are wrong. Dr W. J. Cunliffe in a review in *Mims Magazine*, insists that acne can and should be helped, although the treatment may take many months. He suggests that failure is often because the patient becomes discouraged by lack of immediate success.

Successful treatment in mild cases can usually be achieved by applying creams, gels or lotions; more severe cases may need long-term antibiotics, or in some women, hormone therapy. Finally, in the worst cases, retinoid preparations can be given, but these drugs have severe side effects and their prescription should be limited to hospital practice.

Words of comfort

Last week Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister for Information Technology, launched a new system for transferring the spoken word into print. Known as the Palantype Computer Transcription System, it has been developed by a charity, Possum Controls, with the help of the Universities of Southampton and Dundee from an idea of Mrs Pauline Ashley, wife of Mr Jack Ashley, the deaf MP.

Dr Thomas Stuttford

Derek Mitchell on the breaking of a legal link between physiotherapists and massage parlours

Cleaning up the Act

This week Stanley Cosby, a physiotherapist for 40 years, was prosecuted for refusing to purchase a £68 licence from Lambeth Council in London. Camberwell Green magistrates dismissed the case and awarded defence costs. In doing so, they may well have opened the floodgates on claims for rebates of fees paid by physiotherapists since 1920.

The reason is that the licence Mr Cosby refused to buy was introduced under the London County Council (General Powers) Act of 1920, which was intended, among other things, to strengthen earlier laws governing the spread of sleazy massage parlours in the West End. Gradually, London boroughs classified physiotherapists' private practices in the same category as the massage parlours and exacted an annual fee.

In court on Tuesday, Mr Cosby, a state registered physiotherapist, protested that the Act related not to his profession, but to brothel-keepers. He had been charged with conducting "massage and special treatment" without a licence at his surgery in Streatham, south London, but he argued that modern massage was performed by beauticians and other, more dubious individuals, not physiotherapists. Magistrates' rulings do not

constitute precedents in law, but Mr Cosby's victory means that other, similar prosecutions are unlikely to go ahead. And there is the real possibility that some boroughs will now face claims for licence fee rebates from physiotherapists.

Things have changed since the Chinese first employed massage 3,000 years ago. It was still deemed well above board 1,000 years later when Hippocrates, the father of medicine, was kneading the good people of Cos to relieve ailments ranging from sprains and dislocations to constipation.

Such treatment was slow to reach these shores. The word "massage" did not creep into the English vocabulary until 1876. And it was the turn of the century before the Society of Massage and Medical Gymnastics was formed.

The term "medical gymnastics" was quickly modified to "physical therapy" and later to "physiotherapy". But the word "massage" was open to wider interpretation. While massage in its purest form was growing as a method of treating the needy, the same label was being used to mask the services of the sed.

While helping to frame the 1920 Act, James Ollis, chief officer of the public control department of the London

County Council, sought tighter controls on massage parlours.

In a confidential submission to the council's public control committee in July, 1919, he said: At a recent visit to a registered premises, the inspector found one of the assistants most improperly and inadequately dressed. She was wearing a long overall and the texture of this overall was such as to show that she was wearing no undershirt. Moreover, the lower buttons of the overall were unfastened and revealed orange coloured knickers underneath.

"She was engaged at the time in giving body massage to a male patient and the door of the room was fastened."

The committee members heeded his words and decided to beef up the existing Act. A report to the council in October, 1919, said: "As a result of four years' experience in the administration of Part V (Establishments for Massage and Special Treatment) of the LCC (General Powers) Act 1915, we have come to the conclusion that the council's existing powers of control are not sufficiently stringent to effect the suppression of the serious social evil attached to so many West End massage parlours."

Six months later, Mr Ollis was to tell a select committee:

"There are women who advertise their registered establishments in a certain way, namely 'Scotch', 'English' or 'French', 'masseurs', or frequently giving christian names of assistants, all in such a way as to attract to the premises people who do not want to go there for legitimate massage treatment."

On Tuesday, Maurice Guymer, chief magistrate, took the view that Mr Cosby's practice, which attracts an exclusive international clientele, did not fall within the scope of the Act.

So why did Lambeth council prosecute? Timothy Nunn, of the council's legal department, was at pains to point out before Tuesday's hearing: "Mr Cosby is a very nice man. There is no suggestion that he is doing anything unprofessional or improper. It is just that he needs a licence to operate."

Mr Nunn is a nice man too. He is also an extremely industrious one. Even while he was preparing the prosecution case against Mr Cosby, he was working on a draft of a new General Powers Bill.

That Bill is currently before Parliament. Its effect, if passed, will be to exempt from licensing any practitioner included in the Professions Supplementary to Medicine Act of 1960. Ironically, those professions include physiotherapy.



Stanley Cosby: his case may result in claims for rebates from physiotherapists



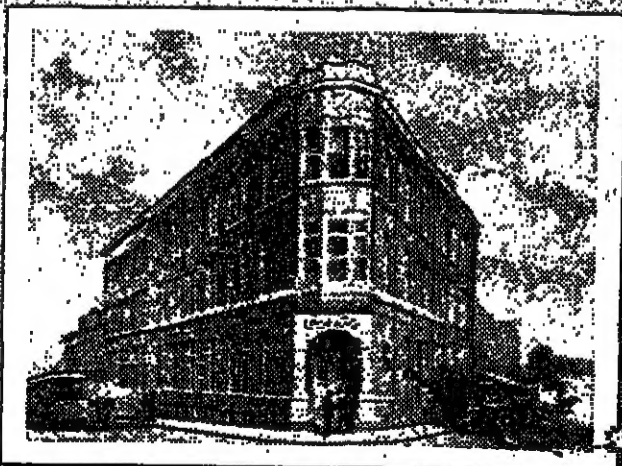
When he first entered the cut-throat battle no one had heard of Gillette.



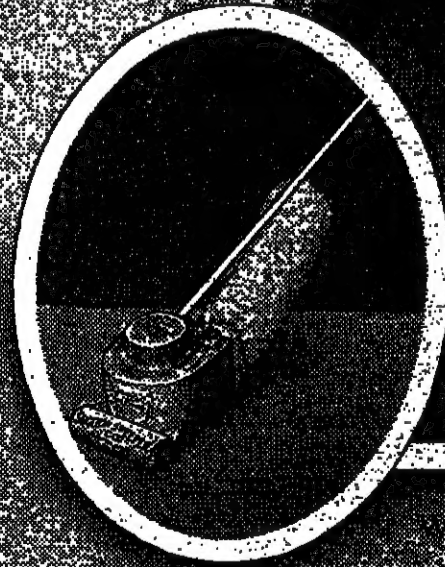
Wedgwood was not always famous worldwide.



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The Coca-Cola vending machine when it was just starting to sell.



The Coca-Cola vending machine when it was just starting to sell.

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CUSTOMS AND MALPRACTICE

Italian customs officers are working to rule, causing intense frustration and hardship to French lorry-drivers. The latter react, with true Cartesian logic, by blocking the roads to all traffic, first around French ski resorts then throughout France, so as to put pressure on the French government. We live, after all, in a united Europe. M. Mitterrand, the French President, is currently in the European chair, and in that capacity this Monday he was visiting the Italian prime minister, Signor Craxi, in Milan: so he was able to tell him to get his customs officers back to work at the double.

Similar messages have been reaching Signor Craxi from Austria, which somehow manages to benefit from European unity without being a member of the EEC and so has more than 1600 lorries waiting on its side of the border for Italian customs clearance. And Signor Craxi cannot have been idle. Yesterday the Prefect of Turin ordered the Italian customs men to work normally; and one of the main unions involved announced that it was calling off its overtime ban. The inhabitants of the narrow Val d'Aosta are bracing themselves for simultaneous ignition of some ten thousand lorry engines. But France, meanwhile, remains paralysed. "The state does not negotiate under pressure," explains M. Jacques Delors, the French finance minister - whose colleague at Transport, M. Charles Fiterman, has been negotiating under intense pressure since the weekend.

Rather a lot of issues are raised by this affair, whose comic side is no doubt a good deal less

visible to those now spending their fifth or sixth consecutive night by the roadside on the lower slopes of Mont Blanc. There are the specific grievances of both lorry-drivers (or lorry-owners) and customs officers. There is the question of the degree of maltreatment the public must be prepared to put up with from this or that category of traders, however acute and justified the grievances involved. There is the variety of national cultures in this respect - ably explored, as between France and Britain, by our Paris correspondent on the opposite page. There is the general political and social situation illuminated, and perhaps affected, by these events in both France and Italy. Above all, there is the question: what sort of Europe are we living in; and why, in a customs union which for France and Italy has been in existence a quarter of a century, do we need customs officers at all?

The demand of the Italian customs officers to be increased in number, on the grounds that there are only four thousand of them whereas Germany has thirty thousand, is perhaps the one that will arouse the least sympathy among the European public: though one should bear in mind the length of the Italian coastline, and the fact that the common external tariff has presumably been levied at the Swiss and Austrian frontiers. But there is surely something absurd and unacceptable about the fact that, as Dr Karl-Heinz Narjes, the European Commissioner for the "internal market", pointed out in a speech at Chatham House last October, a road haulier carrying goods from Rotterdam to Naples, on top of his average 26 hours' driving

time, has to allow ten hours' waiting time at the Community's internal frontiers.

Even railway passengers between Paris and Brussels, as a writer in the *New York Times* remarked yesterday, have to be checked by two sets of police and two sets of customs officers - though at least they can do it while in motion instead of being held up at the frontier like the truck drivers. Surely if the Common Market means anything it should mean we can do away with such controls and treat the Community as a single economic space within which goods and persons can travel at will. If it achieved that, perhaps the *fronde* of the French lorry-drivers would be forgiven even by those whose holidays it has ruined.

But does their movement have political implications in France? They themselves strenuously deny it, rejecting any comparison with the movement which helped to bring down Salvador Allende in Chile - a comparison that the increasingly nervous left-wing coalition in France has been quick to draw. Many of their grievances, they point out, antedate the arrival of the left in power; and the right hesitates to exploit, still less applaud, a movement that so obviously defies law and order. On the other hand M. Maurice Voiron, leader of the largest organization involved, was talking last October about a "battle for free enterprise"; and one of the accusations against M. Fiterman, the Communist transport minister, is that he has systematically favoured rail over road transport. He denies it but, after this experience, he could hardly be blamed if he were to do so in future.

GETTING IT IN WRITING

Since late last year the British and Chinese negotiating teams have simply been describing their talks on Hongkong as "useful and constructive". This bland formula was given another airing yesterday, after the latest round of talks in Peking. But beyond such vague generalities the outlines of an agreement are starting to take shape. Barring unforeseen problems, the two sides can be expected to make a statement on the future of Hongkong, perhaps in the form of a communiqué, within the next few months.

It is safe to assume that the statement will combine some British acknowledgment of China's sovereignty over Hongkong with a Chinese commitment to preserve the character of the territory largely intact. But it will not, it seems, lay down in detail the manner in which the Chinese will put their commitment into practice. The Chinese themselves have said more than once that the future status of Hongkong will be enshrined in a basic law, or mini-constitution, embodying China's plans for an autonomous, self-governing zone, and that this mini-constitution will take quite a long time to draw up.

None of this will satisfy the five million or so people of Hongkong, most of whom are deeply distrustful of the Chinese Communists, and would prefer it if Hongkong stayed as it is today. But given the extraordinary nature of the Hongkong problem - the lease agreement under which Britain holds most of the colony, the complex interdependence of Hongkong and China - the British Government has had little choice but to seek a

settlement within the bounds sketched out by the present, pragmatic leadership in Peking.

Within these bounds there is still a good deal to be achieved. The British Government's first priority must be to ensure that the basic law, or whatever it is eventually called, that China draws up for Hongkong is as detailed and precise as possible, and is incorporated in a formal document signed and sealed by the British and Chinese governments - if not in the form of a treaty, then in the closest approximation to a treaty that diplomacy will allow. The reason for this is simply that throughout their thirty-four years in power the Chinese Communist leaders have displayed a healthy respect for international agreements, and have proved far more ready to honour them than they have, say, the provisions of their own state constitution. And if it is possible to write into this agreement specific assurances regarding key aspects of Hongkong life - the freedom of its press, the freedom of its people to travel abroad, the inviolability and independence of its laws, the proper handling of its foreign reserves - these will help allay the doubts and fears from which people in Hongkong now suffer.

Such written provisions will not and cannot provide cast-iron guarantees. The sad and unpleasant fact is that however genuine China's present leaders may be about preserving Hongkong unchanged, the shadow of Chinese Communism will hang over the territory come what may. Within the Chinese Party and bureaucracy the habits of political intervention and

dirigisme are very deeply ingrained. Even if there is not another upsurge of radicalism or isolationism - and who knows what will happen when 79-year-old Deng Xiaoping dies? - Chinese cadres will find it hard to let Hongkong go its own way. But a precisely-worded document will help deter the kind of inadvertent interventionism which would have a slow but fatal effect on the territory's present prosperity.

There are other tasks, too, to which the British Government and the British authorities in Hongkong must devote their attention. Before China takes overall control of Hongkong steps should be taken to create a suitable political framework for the local self-government to which Peking says it is committed. Sensible and well-informed people in Hongkong are now calling for a form of democracy to replace the present colonial system of government there. One of the chief failings of the British in Hongkong has been to neglect this aspect of life. More democracy in Hongkong will give the people of the colony strength and self-confidence in their future dealings with China. It will also enable the Chinese Government to deal more easily with Hongkong, as Chinese leaders themselves now seem to accept. But the process will have to be handled deftly if it is not to get out of hand, or cause unnecessary offence to Peking. The transition to a self-governing Hongkong, strong and mature enough to work with - and to some extent under - the authorities in China, will be a complex one, and one that calls for great political skill.

... OH LIBERTY! WHAT CRIMES ...

Individual liberty would seem to be at its most secure here in the maturest of the western democracies. But the very thoroughness of its permeation of the British tradition has its dangers. People can be too casual about the ingredients which make up the whole, too complacent about its continuation in perpetuity. Freedom, as we must never forget, is conditional; and the necessary pre-condition is eternal vigilance.

The National Council for Civil Liberties which celebrates its half-century this week, was set up to maintain that vigilance. Unfortunately its fiftieth anniversary does not inspire universal confidence that it has remained true to its tradition. This conviction does not come just from the libertarian right which itself can claim a long tradition, and is now enjoying some unprecedented respectability. The NCCL does not represent that kind of liberty, for sure; but it is seen as indiscriminately anti-authority in every sphere other than economics.

This week the NCCL announced, as part of its new "Liberty Campaign", an inter-

vention to reverse the drift into "a law and order society". There is nothing wrong with a society that is lawful and orderly. Indeed, respect for the law and for our neighbours is a pre-condition of a responsible society in which individuals can exercise their freedoms. It is the means whereby it is achieved that require eternal vigilance. There are the methods of totalitarianism and the methods of democracy, and many stages in between.

Pressure groups such as NCCL invariably attract their share of harmless eccentrics. It is worrying for the public and self-defeating for the NCCL, however, when organizations for whom the word "liberty" has a peculiar meaning, like the Communist Party of Great Britain, obtain a strong foothold in NCCL as communists did in the 1940s and the mid-1970s. Mr Larry Gostin, the fluent New York lawyer who took over in November, was appointed on the understanding that he would not become identified with a political party as had his predecessors. He made plain from the start his wish that NCCL should break out of its left wing ghetto and "gain a wide and substantial following from all parties, classes

and races". He must be held to that undertaking.

In the later 1980s there will, no doubt, be moments when NCCL will offend that very middle opinion it is seeking to capture by seeming soft on terrorism through its opposition to the Prevention of Terrorism Act or wandering once more into emotionally explosive areas like the age of consent. But there are a number of areas where its work will prove increasingly important as technology enables authority, if it so chooses, to intrude ever deeper into personal privacy through electronic surveillance or by storing more information than is strictly necessary in personal files held by the police, the Department of Health and Social Security or the Inland Revenue. Given the complexity of legislation and equipment in these fields, full-time professional watchdogs have a valuable public service to perform. For that reason, NCCL must build on its 50-year tradition of screening every bill, clause, annex and administrative procedure for the thin ends of wedges. It will be hard work, and often unfashionable; but that should not be an encouragement to unnecessary overbidding.

Plea for time by Falklanders

From the Representative of the Falkland Islands Government

Sir, Whilst it is desirable that there be improved diplomatic and commercial relations between Great Britain and Argentina, it is too early to talk of opening links between the Falkland Islands and Argentina, and we feel strongly that the Falkland Islands should not be used as a pawn in any bilateral negotiations.

We would welcome the opportunity of re-establishing communications and trading links with Chile and Uruguay. It is important, however, that the Falkland Islands Government is as far as possible kept continuously advised of all developments in this area.

When the Falkland Islands have had a period of peaceful reconstruction and development the Government and people will be able more clearly to assess their position and decide how they wish their political future to develop, in other words, exercise their right of self-determination.

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN MONK, Representative,
Falkland Islands Government,
29 Tufton Street,
Westminster, SW1.
February 22.

GLC papers

From Mr Neville Beale

Sir, In his feature article about Duncan Campbell's troubles (February 15) Peter Kellner says that "the only material marked restriction" in his (Campbell's) bicycle panniers is some planning documents provided by a Greater London Council committee (of which he is a co-opted member) and supplied to him in his formal capacity as an adviser to the GLC on civil defence policy.

I have to inform you that as opposition spokesman on that same committee I have yet to see any restricted Home Office document. Yours faithfully,
NEVILLE BEALE,
Greater London Council,
Members' Lobby,
The County Hall, SE1.
February 18.

Farmers under fire

From Mr Gerard Noel

Sir, David Hux (feature, February 15) again urges our politicians to get tough with farmers who should be, as he rather oddly puts it, "exposed to the cool winds of an economic reality that other sectors... had to embrace".

Mr Hart would have us imagine that the typical farmer is a big businessman "laughing all the way to the bank" on the back of lavish and indiscriminate subsidies. In fact only 2.5 per cent of all agricultural holdings exceed 300 hectares and when one considers that two-thirds of all mixed farms run at a loss and that the industry's bank borrowing has reached £4bn, it is not surprising that the laughter has become a little hollow.

What would be the consequences of a wholesale removal of agricultural support? No doubt farmers on Grade 1 and 2 land would survive. Many others would go to the wall. It is hard to see who would benefit from such a state of affairs apart perhaps from property speculators waiting to move in on the new rural slump. Yours faithfully,
GERARD NOEL,
The Manor,
Witington,
near Cheltenham,
Gloucestershire.
February 20.

Charities and tax

From the Reverend John Ticehurst

Sir, Lord Bruce-Gardyne's article (February 15) today betrays considerable ignorance of the effects of the taxation embroileries he and his like have got up to in recent years. A tiny church in this district had on its roof a collapsing and entirely useless cupola that contained a bell that might have rung once in the last fifty years. They wished to take it down before it fell into the street because there is a grade II listed building (and a poor one at that), the state refused to allow them to do so.

Instead they have had to replace it at a cost of nearly £2,000 - money they would rather have given to Christian Aid; and then, to add insult to injury, the Government will force this unnecessary expenditure on them also charged them an extra 15 per cent for the privilege of living in a free country. Yours faithfully,
JOHN TICEHURST,
The Manor,
Franklyn Avenue,
Braunton,
North Devon.
February 15.

Nuclear 'first use'

From Lord Gladwyn

Sir, As the negotiator, on behalf of Mr Bevin, of the first draft of a North Atlantic Treaty, and as an ex-President of the North Atlantic Treaty Association, I can hardly be suspected of being anti-American, still less anti-NATO! It was as a strong supporter of the Alliance, therefore, that I found Mr Podhoretz's article (February 16) tendentious and misleading.

As I understand it, those who believe that the first use of nuclear weapons would, in all probability, result in something infinitely worse than defeat do not recommend any formal repudiation by NATO of any such intention (suicide, presumably always being a possible option), but rather a simple assumption by all the governments concerned that "first use" being, in practice, an impossibility, the construction of

Balance of advantage at Scott Lithgow

From Professor James Pickett

Sir, Much has been said and written about Scott Lithgow; yet relatively little effort has been made to make systematic calculations about the consequences of alternative courses of action for the British economy as a whole.

In this regard even evidently minimal cost-benefit analysis suffices to establish that it is most unlikely that construction of an alternative to the 2002 rig abroad would be in the British national interest. It also serves as a reminder that any part of the value added by a rescue and subsequent operations at Scott Lithgow which leaks abroad could not be counted as a direct benefit to the British economy.

The aggregate number of hourly-paid workers, supervisory and administrative staff required to complete the rig at Scott Lithgow may reasonably be put at 1,825. If this number remains in employment, the present value of savings to the Treasury would be at least £21.4m. This saving comes, of course, from avoiding redundancy payments and unemployment benefit.

It may be noted that redundancy accounts for £14.3m, so that this figure measures the additional initial cost of the Bechtel proposal to close the yard for a brief, interim period. It should immediately be added this does not necessarily tell against Bechtel. A period of efficient planning could well be justified.

The main point I wish to make here about the £21.4m is the obvious one: it gives the Government very considerable scope for manoeuvre in efforts to preserve a long-term, economically viable offshore rig in Port Glasgow. This scope could be exploited in several ways, including that of making the terms

of a renegotiated contract attractive to Britoil.

Moreover, the presumably informed interest of Trafalgar House, Bechtel and Howard Doris indicates that the commercial judgment is that Scott Lithgow has a future. Consequently if, for technical reasons, these three contenders are ruled out by Britoil, the Government should examine with Britoil (and Scott Lithgow (not British Shipbuilders) what can be done to complete the rig before March, 1986.

In this regard, some part of the £21.4m could be spent on hiring Asian technical and management expertise to strengthen the already much-improved management team. This would be cheaper than closure and placing a £90m order in the Far East; and, most importantly, it could preserve the facility.

I appreciate that the Government's approach has throughout been an arm's-length one. However, failure to go down to the level of the individual enterprise has arguably been a major fault in the industrial policies of successive British governments.

Related to this, I think, is the growing feeling that the rundown of British industry has gone far enough. Where, as at Scott Lithgow, there are evident things the Government can do to reverse this, in support of and not in conflict with its views on competitiveness in the economy, people are entitled and increasingly prone to ask why it does not do them.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES PICKETT, Director,
David Livingstone Institute of Overseas Development Studies,
University of Strathclyde,
McCance Building,
16 Richmond Street,
Glasgow.
February 22.

Helping hand from National Trust

From Mr James Lees-Milne

Sir, Roger Scruton's indictment of the National Trust in his article, "Out with the state, enter the state" (February 21), is so misleading that I had to read it twice to make sure it was not meant as a joke.

His assertion that the trust is "an institution, which... is in truth the smoothest apologist for the injustices of the state" is indeed a reversal of the truth. On the contrary, the trust has always deprecated the penal taxation which compels so many families to abandon their country houses.

Mr Scruton "groans aloud" on the too-frequent occasions when he learns that another "noble pile" has fallen into the trust's clutches, "to be eternally fossilized." But does he groan aloud every month of the year when some noble pile, which has not passed into the trust's safekeeping, either falls to the ground from decay, or is demolished by the house-breaker?

He instances Canons Ashby and Kingston Lacy as recent victims of the trust's "absolutist" attitude, i.e., salvation and repair. The first house, which for decades deteriorated in the ownership of an ancient family too poor to maintain it, would undoubtedly have collapsed in ruins; and the second would certainly have been stripped of its incomparable picture collection, even if the fabric survived, had it not been for the National Trust alternative.

Not every historic house is, or can be lived in. Hardwick Hall is one such; but that architectural masterpiece is at least preserved intact. There are many country houses belonging to the National Trust in which the original families still reside, if not in the whole, then in part, and within 10 miles from where I write beautiful Dyham Park provides flats for 10 separate families in addition to 14 state

rooms, enjoyed by the public. There is no sign of "the dead hand of the National Trust" in this "mausoleum". Yours,
JAMES LEES-MILNE,
19 Lansdown Crescent,
Bath, Avon.

From Mr Martin Briggs

Sir, Has it occurred to Roger Scruton, whose ill-informed and prejudiced outburst against the National Trust appeared in your issue of February 21, that the trust would agree with him in wanting country houses to remain, wherever possible, in private ownership?

Over the years the trust has repeatedly stated this simple belief and it is churlish of Dr Scruton to give no credit for the long list of happy rescues of houses, large and small, which, without the trust's sympathy, skill and love, would have crumbled and died, their contents dispersed and their environment lastingly impoverished.

Until quite recently I was administrator for eight years of one of the trust's major properties. In addition to the small permanent staff some sixty or so local people annually were employed seasonally, showing loyalty to, and affection for, the house, garden and estate in a tradition of such loyalty stretching back at least 500 years.

Among the 70,000 and more visitors each year few were seen to be visibly mourning any extinguished "fires of our national inheritance." Rather, common sentiments were gratitude to the trust for the sheer quality of its work, mixed with relief that something unique was being preserved. These sentiments were, incidentally, shared and often expressed by members of the family who had previously owned the house.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN BRIGGS,
Chittenden Cottage,
High Street,
Hawkhurst, Kent.
February 21.

Telephone tapping

From Mr Antony Whitaker

Sir, The phone-tapping issues now being ventilated - if that is not over-dignifying the Government's position - at Strasbourg and in Parliament raise the delicate point of exactly what amounts to a phone "tap".

In its ordinary sense it seems to mean simply a listening device attached to a telephone cable and not the interception of radio-transmitted calls, which account for an increasing volume of both international and domestic traffic. It is indeed amazing, as Mr Ross-Munro has said (report, February 21), if 100 Post Office eavesdroppers cannot manage more than four and a half taps per man per year.

But is it clear that this is all they do? Do they also carry out CCHQ-type monitoring, and if so, do they seek the Home Secretary's per-

mission to do it? Will they need it under the amendment carried against the Government yesterday (report, February 21) outlawing unauthorized tapping and making it subject to a £5,000 fine?

What about the US listening post at Menwith Hill, the strategic and nodal eavesdropping point for most intercontinental telephone traffic? How much of that gets the Home Secretary's personal, individual authorization for each interception?

"Tapping under this Act shall be deemed to include the interception of any radio-transmitted communication" - a necessary, anti-Orwellian safeguard in a 1984 measure. With that we could sleep more easily and - more to the point - converse more privately.

Yours faithfully,
ANTONY WHITAKER,
14 Belmont Road,
Twickenham, Middlesex.
February 22.

Lives of animals in the balance

From Mr Graham Chayne

Sir, The arrogance with which scientific man treats animal life has been twice exemplified in the past week: by the disclosure that animals are deliberately shot at the Porton Down defence establishment (reports, February 17 and 20), and by the announcement (report, February 16) that the Institute of Animal Physiology near Cambridge has engineered a "sheep-goat chimera".

As usual, superbly logical justifications have been advanced for these experiments. As a direct result of pigs being shot with high-velocity bullets and clamped-down monkeys being blasted with small arms at short range, medical services in the Falklands conflict were unsurpassed in the history of warfare.

Similarly, the production of animals half-sheep, half-goat, is defended on the grounds that endangered species could be rescued by creating conditions in which the embryo of a species at risk could be reared safely in another species.

In the former case, doctors specializing in war wounds - such as those at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast - have disclaimed the usefulness of such experiments, and the suspicion must be that animals are being shot not to save lives but so that more efficient weapons can be developed. In the latter case, the explanation looks like an afterthought to justify scientific meddling and curiosity.

In any case, is the amelioration of one evil sufficient excuse for the perpetration of another? The question is not easy; but scientists rarely seem to ask it, exercising instead the happy fulfiling of their specialized half-minds, leaving moral dilemmas to the exercise of specialized half-minds in another field.

It is 25 years since C. P. Snow proclaimed the existence of a separate scientific "culture", more important for the future of the world than the old "intellectual" one of academic "Luddites". Although F. R. Leavis challenged Snow's materialist conceit, since then have stood up for that human integrity and spiritual wholeness which are alone likely to prevent technological irresponsibility, in combination with Orwellian political logicity, from destroying the world.

It is, of course, too idealistic to wish that instead of shooting animals to investigate war wounds, we might investigate humans to discover why war is necessary, or that instead of using genetic engineering to perpetuate endangered species, we should stop endangering them by the rapacious pollutant and destructive habit - our materialist societies.

But though these two incidents may seem minor in the perspective of the world's crisis, they remain symptomatic of the nature of the world's disease. Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM CHAYNE,
47 St Barnabas Road,
Cambridge.
February 19.

The political levy

From the Director of Aims of Industry

Sir, The condemnation of the Government's refusal to change on the political levy from opting out to opting in (as is still the case in Northern Ireland) is overshadowing one essential and urgent step. It is to protect trade unionists throughout the country who, despite the fact that they state that they do not want to pay the levy, nevertheless have it deducted from their wages by their employer, and many of them do not get their money back.

The Trade Union Act, 1913, states that this should not be done unless there are special difficulties. Trade unions and employers hide behind this by arguing that in the days of the computer it is difficult to exempt trade unionists who have stated that they do not wish to support the Labour Party. The opposite is the truth. The computer can be highly flexible in "these matters".

Just occasionally a brave man stands out and counter-argues, as was the case with Mr Jack Clemons of the Post Office Engineering Union, who went to the certification officer after spending 12 years asking for his money back.

Mr Tom King's "agreement" with the TUC would do nothing to alter this. It would be a simple matter for the Government to put the matter to a referendum. Let us hope we get an amendment on this when the Bill goes through Parliament. Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL IVENS, Director,
Aims of Industry,
40 Doughty Street, WC1.
February 20.

Cross words

From Mr Harry Holt

Sir, Shafts of lexicographical wit can be found even within the covers of the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*.

In my 1946 edition the 14-line entry under "Oxford" includes definitions of Oxford bags, blue, clay, frame, (O), mixture, movement, shirting, undergarments. The entry under "Cambridge" consists of less than one line. It reads, in full, "C. blue, light blue".

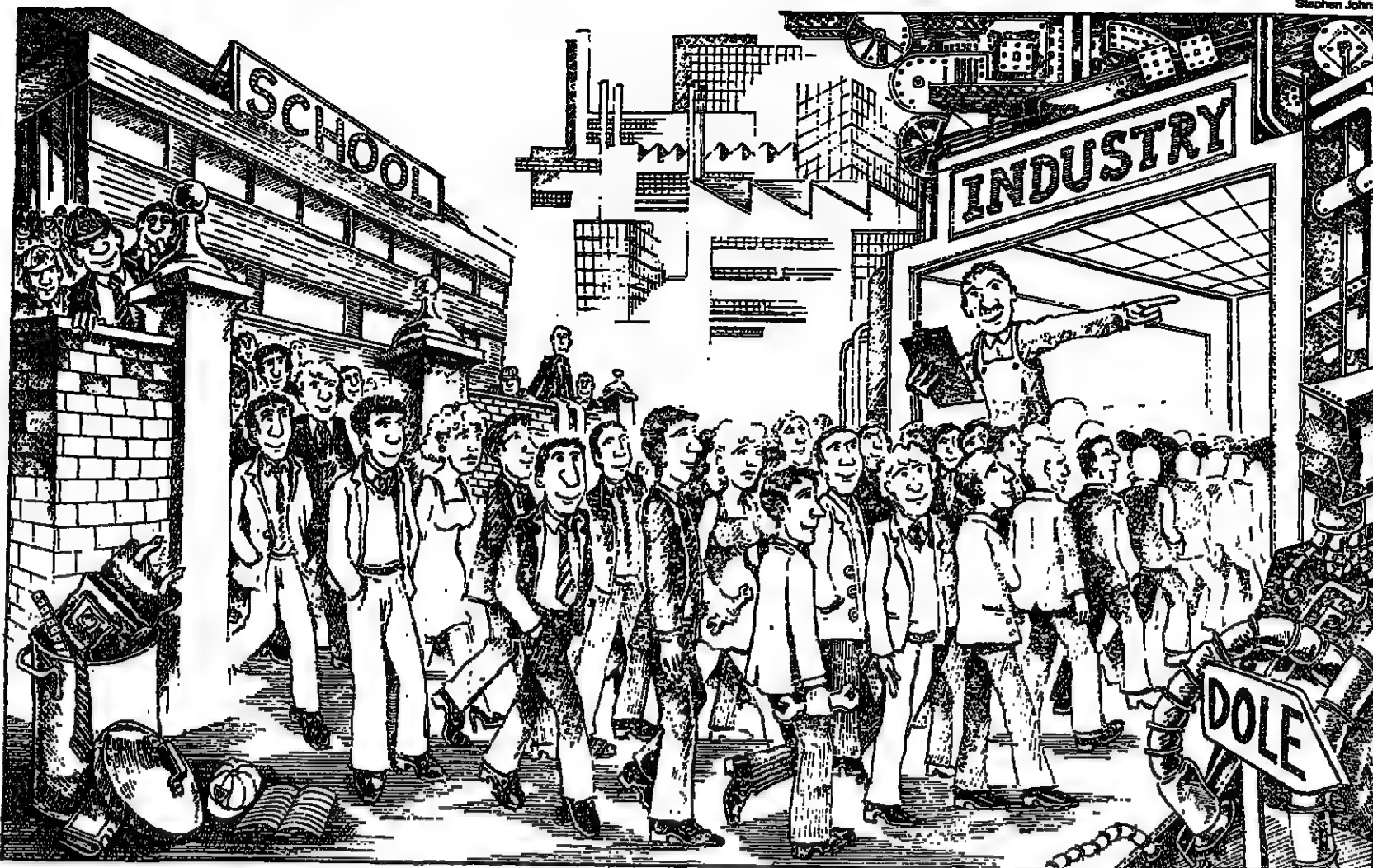
Cowardly editors of more recent editions, however, have expanded the Cambridge entry considerably, even to the extent of admitting the existence of a university there.

Yours faithfully,
HARRY HOLT,
Orchard Close,
Britwell Salome,
Wallington,
Oxfordshire.
February 13.

Generating jobs

A SPECIAL REPORT

In 1980 the Special Programmes Unit started work with powerful, locally based employers to improve job prospects for young people. This five page special report marks its progress



James Cooke, a former disaster relief officer, has been at the heart of the Special Programmes Unit since its inception in 1980. He is a man of many parts: a former disaster relief officer, a former teacher, a former civil servant, and a former member of the House of Commons. He is now the chief executive of the unit, which is a joint venture between the Department of Industry and the Department of Education and Science.

Cooke is not a politician or a left-wing economist trying to put the Government through a wringer. What makes his predictions the more disturbing is that he has no axes to grind; indeed he is a man appointed with the backing of Whitehall itself to help solve, or at least ameliorate, youth unemployment. The Confederation of British Industry Special Programmes Unit was set up in 1980 at the bidding of the Manpower Services Commission to help market youth employment programmes to the country's big employers. Cooke, its chief executive, doesn't believe you can do that by fudging the issues.

"Britain is at both a structural and an economic crossroads," he says. "We have the likelihood of very severe youth unemployment. We have a period of hiatus of at least three to five years whilst, hopefully, the economy picks up. Unless

we get local employer groups owning that problem through-out the country and therefore collaborating fully with government measures and aiming to try and help their local economy pick up quicker, I very much fear that the period of hiatus is too long and that the social problems will become too bad."

This concept - ownership of the problem - is a favourite of Cooke's. Finding jobs for one million youngsters looks impossible, pure pie in the sky. But break the figures down locally and the problem is more manageable. "Problems which look completely unanswerable at a macro level become very much more resolvable at a local level," says Cooke.

In 1981 its first full year, the unit put together a board which included such luminaries as the heads of Metal Box, International Thomson, Thorn EMI, Wimpey, BP and the Post Office and drafted secondedees from the big companies who were what Norman Mills (Cooke's "number two", seconded from BATs) calls self-motivating mavericks. They became high-powered fixers and nobblers, cutting through red tape and protocol to get at those who could get things moving. Its remit at that stage was modest and straightforward: a simple push, over a 12 month period, to get the leading employers in the land committed to helping the Youth Opportunities Programme which, until then, had been largely dominated by companies employing 20 or less which were, frankly, looking for cheap labour.

In the course of that year Cooke himself spoke to the chairmen of most of the leading companies and came to some important conclusions. "We found that companies care in a mathematically dis-

crete fashion: number one about themselves, number two about their employees (and you can assume that in most parts of Britain one in four of the average company's employees will have a kid leaving school who won't get a job in the next year or so - so they care about something very close to home); and, thirdly, they care about their patch. It really is quite astonishing how you can talk to Rockitt & Coleman about, say, Reading, and they'll wonder about the hell about Hull and Rockitt & Coleman will do everything they can to help."

To his astonishment, Cooke found that there were no forecasts in Britain of unemployment at a local level. He initiated several studies, the first at Redditch, Preston and Southwark. These confirmed the view that companies were

willing to give their support, but also showed an even more serious youth unemployment problem than anyone had imagined. In Redditch, Preston and Southwark cumulative youth unemployment was standing at 74 per cent, 66 per cent and 42 per cent respectively. "That gave us pause for thought. Here we all are moaning about 16 or 19 per cent or whatever, but percentages like 74 per cent - that's a different ball game."

"We discovered several things when you get boards like that together: the first thing was that there isn't a network anywhere in Britain where businessmen get together to look at their local community problems that has teeth; and that once they started really owning the problem, because they were also unaware of the scale of it, they then started clamouring for what the ought to do about it."

There are now some 25 CAPs, each of them led by top industrialists such as Gordon Brunton, managing director of International Thomson

(Neath), Lord Polwarth of the Bank of Scotland (Borders) and Sir Trevor Holdsworth, chairman of GKN (Birmingham). One of the principal aims of the CAPs has been to support the Youth Training Scheme, but Cooke thinks those goals must be taken much further.

"Unless we pick up two things I believe the Youth Training Scheme could well come unstuck, and I also think we could be in a situation where the whole effort could look a little pointless. In most of the cities we're involved in we're forecasting cumulative youth unemployment of somewhere between 40 and 70 per cent; this

means that in a place like Tyneside we could well have 35,000 or more youngsters who've been unemployed for any length up to five years, within the next five years."

"So the first worry is what happens to the youngsters at the end of the YTS period. Because if we're right, then unacceptably large numbers of them will go on the dole. And so, through the CAPs... we're trying to develop pilot programmes for the second year."

Areas being examined include job-sharing and value added training.

"By that I mean programmes for a second year that are sufficiently commercially attractive that companies will do them in their own right. You can teach a youngster the basics of secretarial work and I don't think they'll get a job. But teach them the bones of secretarial

work and then give them a hands-on experience programme for a second year where they're taught to put a firm's VAT, cashflow and payroll on a simple micro... it's been done in Bristol; they've all got jobs."

Secondly, Cooke hopes for a series of business initiatives to underpin the local economy - every thing from new enterprise workshops, like the one set up by British American Tobacco which has helped create 60 new companies, through "buy local" campaigns and work creation projects, to schemes to inject managerial expertise into smaller companies to help them to grow.

The CAPs are vital to the work of the Special Programmes Unit, but only part of it. The CBI-SPU staff, including 30 senior executives seconded from leading companies, see themselves as Mr Fixits, ready to cajole industrialists into employing youth. The record of the last three years is formidable:

- Creation of 35,000 work experience places in 1981 (equivalent to 40 per cent of all new places that year).
- Creation of 10,000 pilot 12-month training places in 1982.
- A national programme of 80 conferences for local employers in 1983.

But is it all enough? Cooke doesn't underestimate the size of the problem. But he believes that if local industry responds the worst may be avoided.

What would he regard as success?

"I would be looking as a number one target to try and get much more of an injection of management skills into helping pick up the economy," he says cautiously. "In terms of what all that could mean - well, the MSC are hoping that some 50 per cent of youngsters this year will get jobs. If we could take that figure up to 60 per cent or 70 per cent that would be an achievement."

Malcolm Brown

On other pages

Is buying British an answer? Problems facing employers page 18

Neath: a case study of a town fighting back page 17

The ways of creating permanent jobs: calling in the flying squad page 18

Where have all the recruits gone? One of Britain's best trainers page 19

When Pat Harvey joined us last October he was just one of three million unemployed.

He became one of around 1,500 young men and women currently being trained by Wimpey, under the government's Youth Training Scheme. That's almost a tenth of the total YTS intake within the construction industry.

We'll guide him through a year with us. Teach him to do a man-size job in an industry where only the best survive.

If he shows the right aptitudes and he really puts his back into his work, we'll reward his effort. With a full-time job.

It's a future we are happy to offer many hundreds of young people. They'll serve their apprenticeships with us. Attend college as day release students. Look forward to a secure career with a company that recognises and rewards initiative and application.

It's the best pat on the back we can give them.

And one they'll have earned.

WIMPEY
Engineering
Construction Development
George Wimpey PLC
Hammersmith Grove, London W6 7EN
Telephone 01-748 2000.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A PAT ON THE BACK
AND THE BACK ON A PAT.

Towards the end of the Eighties: the frightening figures of young people likely to be looking for work Is buying British an answer?

Community Action Programmes (CAPs) of which the Confederation of British Industry Special Programmes Unit (SPU) had half a dozen in operation by the middle of 1982, now number 26. Another dozen are planned and likely to be operating within two years or not much more.

CAPs bring together key business leaders, local authority heads and other important local figures to maximize local youth employment prospects, linking with government measures like the Youth Training Scheme (YTS). As CAPs have developed they have become a new form of local economic institution, reaching out to improve overall local economic performance. A common denominator is that all face tricky unemployment problems. The aim has been to set up a CAP in any travel-to-work area with an unemployment rate of more than 12 per cent and an employee population of 100,000 or more.

Allied to the broad strategy of tackling the worst-hit areas are the array of government, and local authority, grants and schemes which are a collective response to unemployment problems. But within the broad framework there are many local differences to tackle which to be successful means developing a specifically local response.

The CAPs are predominantly in key cities and towns. These include Tyneside, Leeds, Hull, Preston, Rochdale, Oldham, Lincoln, Wolverhampton, Birmingham, Coventry, Oxford, Luton, Bridgewater, Plymouth and in London, the Southwark and the Barking area, in Anglesey and north Norfolk, where the rural



nature of the territory introduces its own particular problems because of reliance on often a limited number of local industries. One of the most recent CAPs set up is in the Mendips group of towns. Surveys made to estimate, however approximately, the

cumulative effect of schools leavers not getting substantive jobs indicated how far problems differed from place to place. In Leeds the number of school leavers jobless and needing help was expected by the end of 1987 to have risen by rather more than three times. It appeared to be the same in Hull. In Luton, heavily reliant on motor manufacturing, a slightly lesser increase of 278 per cent expected. On Tyneside with its long history of high unemployment levels, an increase of just over 160 per cent was anticipated. The Barking area was expected to rise 245 per cent.

The problem everywhere is securing for young people not only initial work experience, such as under the one-year YTS, but subsequently to get their feet more firmly on the work ladder. Mr James Cooke, chief executive of the special programmes unit pointed out that the importance of the surveys was not so much the figures adduced as the momentum they gave to CAP boards in determining to tackle their individual area problems.

He said: "It is one thing to tackle the problems of an area like the Barking. The reliance there is on textiles and agriculture. The actual numbers of youth unemployment are small. So the reaction of a number of small businesses to broaden the

industrial base could see the problem licked." But he went on: "It is different at the other end of the spectrum in the big cities. Setting up small businesses plays a part. But even to begin to tackle the problems you need a great cluster of experiments and ideas. The forecasts made are merely indicative. They make no allowance for job turnover rates or labour mobility. But it is hard to find large numbers of new jobs in the offing that are applicable to school leavers."

Now sufficient YTS places have been found, Mr Cooke wants to see that achievement consolidated, initially by reinforcing the quality of the scheme's operation. This strategy led to the idea of setting up a chain of more than 100 management executive workshops bringing together those who in each locality are managing agents for Manpower Services Commission. Some 45 of these are now operating.

Half a dozen times a year common problems can be discussed, experience shared on systems that have proved successful and new ideas tested. SPU has also set up an information centre as a communications link for good ideas to be disseminated around the country. Mr Cooke would like to see an extension to give the information centre a European and even international dimension. The Dutch, for instance, are further ahead in exploring



James Cooke: more experiments, more ideas

working-sharing and recasting the working week. France has been doing advanced work on value-added training, achieving a more productive end result training.

Mr Cooke said: "It's crazy that we do not know in detail what has been discovered in these continental efforts. It could well be better psychologically not for one youngster to have a full-time job but for two to have a job, and half a wage each. Youngsters primarily want a job. I am sure: the financial reward is secondary to that."

Another way to capitalize on the YTS would be to use the CAP machinery to experiment in finding ways to give post-YTS youngsters a better chance of continuing useful employment. Mr Cooke said: "Placement is crucial yet how many companies, with those they cannot offer jobs after the YTS year, recommend on the youngsters they have found to be effective? Big companies often place between 80 per cent and all their YTS youngsters but there is room for other companies to do the same thing."

He went on: "The more experience a youngster has, the more saleable in market place he or she becomes. Adding more value to the training in the year after YTS is crucial whether it is through job-sharing or more job-specific training."

One successful idea has been to give youngsters house maintenance skills which can be exploited in city centre areas which offer jobbing builders slim chances of a commercial return. The other emerging aspect of SPU strategy is to get the CAP boards to improve the

business climate overall at local level. New businesses, he emphasizes, are a necessary part of any attempt to improve local business situations. Every borough, he maintains, should have a new enterprise workshop - a concept under which a big local company guarantees a workshops scheme and then rents off the nursery units, usually with secretarial and other services built in on a group basis. Often companies, especially those family-owned, reached a turnover between £1m and £2m and get stuck in a groove, largely through lack of business expertise. The experience of those on the CAP network can provide such expertise.

Mr Cooke said: "Such a company through incompetence might otherwise crash. Say that creates 400 redundancies. It would take five years probably to replace those jobs. So saving them by helping the company find its right road makes good sense. There have been cases where the right investment and introduction of flexible manufacturing has doubled a company's production."

Mr Cooke also favours a buy British campaign with a sharp focus at the grass roots level. Companies getting components from abroad could look constructively and conscientiously to see how far local component manufacturers might, with the right investment and machinery be able to supply such components.

He also believes that big companies, with product ideas researched but never likely to be followed up, be prepared to allow smaller companies to take them up, with the big company taking royalty payments.

Derek Harris

Employers must get together

possible to assess the likely scale of unemployment over the next few years on a local basis, and to consider the potential for community action. From this base, unit executives working with PA have developed methods, questionnaires and strategy papers which can be used as guides for individual organizations to produce their own surveys.

The PA Town Studies report examined Redditch, Preston and Southwark - chosen as areas most likely to represent different aspects of unemployment. Since then, a further 22 studies have been made from local bases and 12 areas have completed their reports. But by the middle of 1982, the first five studies had endorsed the earlier findings. Not only did none of the towns have employment forecasts, but

no local structure existed whereby business people could tackle the difficulties.

The reports also underlined the PA discovered that wide discrepancies existed between the likely fortunes of different localities. The percentage of 16 to 18-year-olds without work in Southwark two years after the survey period was expected to reach about 42 per cent. In Redditch, 74 per cent. This reinforced the conclusion that different degrees of remedy as well as different tactics were needed.

Eliciting and compiling employment forecasts proved far from easy, even when those questioned were guaranteed that their information would be confidential. The Tyneside Community Action Programme, for example, reported that many of the organizations

in their area were not prepared to forecast future recruitment levels, although responses on capacity and expected business growth provided a strong indication that recruitment would continue to decline.

The Tyneside CAP team staffed by people seconded from Northern Engineering Industries, the Northumberland Water Authority, Procter and Gamble, and Vickers developed their own two-page questionnaire after guidance from the London-based CBI-SPU office. This was submitted to 140 major Tyneside employers but completed by only 80. Despite the difficulties, a 58-page report was completed and published by July, 1983.

At Hull the entire CAP programme nearly foundered because a preliminary report was considered to have been

based on inadequate analysis of information. The project was, however, rescued as a result of some of the participant company representatives voicing both their disquiet and their rapidly falling interest. The final version, published in March 1983, not only showed a prospect of escalating unemployment, but revealed that many employers were unaware of the Youth Training Scheme proposals. "Publication of the report captured attention", Mr Bill Black, Director of J. H. Fenner (Holdings) and chairman of the Hull CAP commented. "From a situation where it appeared unlikely that sufficient YTS places would be obtained, there was a significant over-provision".

Apart from providing vital information for planners, compilation of the local business studies offer an immediate task on which the newly formed

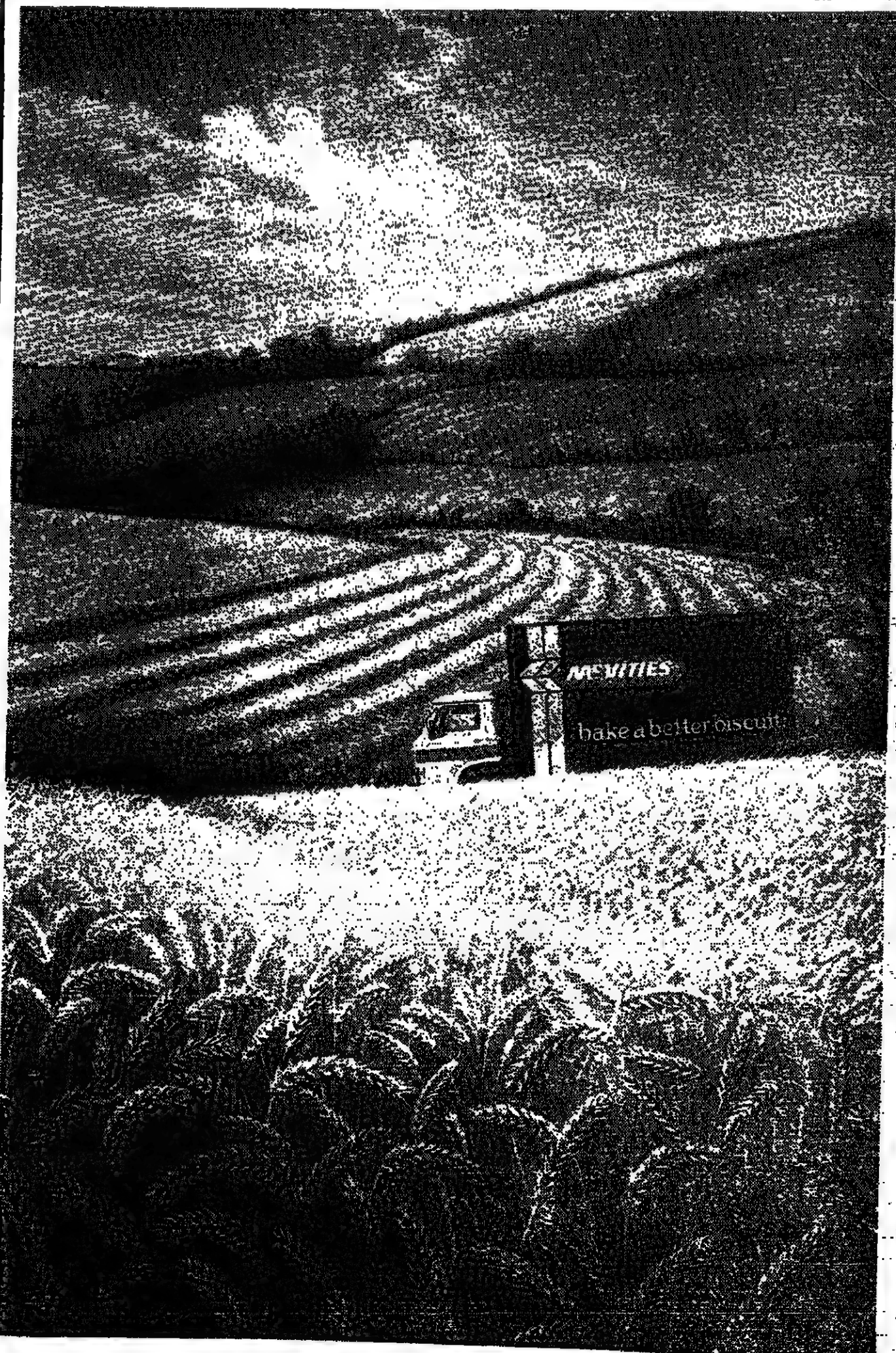
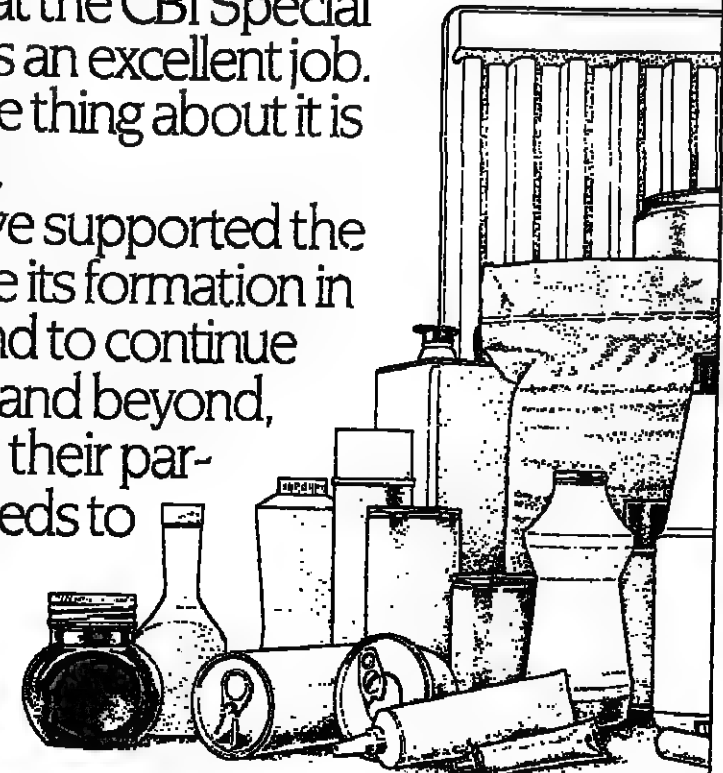
Continued on page 3

We look forward to the S.P.U. not having a job to do. (Because then everyone else will.)

There's no doubt that the CBI Special Programmes Unit does an excellent job. The only unfortunate thing about it is that it's necessary at all.

We at Metal Box have supported the efforts of the S.P.U. since its formation in 1980. And we fully intend to continue doing so through 1984 and beyond, towards the time when their particular job no longer needs to be done.

MB Metal Box
Metal Box plc Queens House Forbury Road Reading RG1 3JH





Firms must cooperate

continued from page 16

CAP teams can work together. The survey process also concentrates the attention of the recipients of questionnaires on the difficulties of their particular community. The likelihood is that second and subsequent questionnaires would receive a better response than the first.

Certainly, a radical change in attitudes, typical of experiences in other participating areas, is illustrated by Mr. Black's account. "The most important achievement so far is that the spirit of cooperation is now more evident than at any time in the past", he said. "Many employers in Hull didn't even speak to one another. That has disappeared. The civic heads are more co-operative with businessmen than they have ever been. Hull is determined to help itself to overcome its problems - an attitude that was noticeably absent during the period of the survey."

Face-to-face meetings are equally important. More than 80 conferences, most of them attended by 100 or more employer representatives have been organized in the past year either specifically to discuss survey reports, or to consider local unemployment generally. Starting with the nomination of a senior executive of a leading local employer as chairman, the programme of conferences, meetings and visits is repeated as often as is necessary in order to meet the local target for training places.

The focus during the next 12 months will move progressively towards providing more permanent occupation for youth trainees. In the Luton area, where a comparatively early CAP scheme started in April 1982, Vauxhall, the leading local employer, has already announced its intention to fund an extra year of training for people on their Youth Training intake who have not got jobs by the age of 17. But a variety of pilot measures, and experiments relating to job sharing, new shift arrangements, further education and promotion of government employment subsidies are being discussed.

A study of the extent of local employment problems has inevitably led many of the surveyors to look at potential solutions, even though they may not consider them to be strictly within their terms of reference. In setting up the mechanism to produce local business studies "we achieved more than we understood", James Cooke.

Patricia Tisdall

Neath: a case history of a town fighting back/Tim Jones reports

A bustle and fizz in the air

Until recently, the largest concentration of waterfalls in the United Kingdom tumbled in lonely splendour towards the sea. Cascading in a charge of white spray, the Lady Falls were a delight seen only by the few who braved the steep valley slope through bracken and bramble. But now the 14 waterfalls can be enjoyed by everyone for the good reason that they are accessible from the road by a safe and gentle path which can even accommodate pushchairs.

The four mile gravel path is part of a larger story which demonstrates that when will combines with expertise a small town, ravaged by recession, can fight back. There is now a bustle and fizz in the air of Neath, West Glamorgan, which contrasts sharply with the despondent mood of hopelessness which pervaded the borough in the late 1970s.

Then, the recession bit deep. Coal and steel, economic backbones of the community, declined and major local employers reinforced to survive the gathering storm. Big companies, attracted initially to the area by special government status, shed men like leaves in an autumn gale and the gloom was compounded when that status was stripped away.

In the town whose solid Labour tradition had given it a reputation for industrial militancy which does not stand up to close examination, just ten

employers accounted for two thirds of the jobs. Between 1977 and 1981, 4,300 people or 16 per cent of the workforce was registered as unemployed.

Companies reported they would have to continue cutting back until, by the end of last year, it was estimated almost one in four would be out of work.

In effect, Neath was almost a microcosm of the British economy, declining and ill prepared to adapt to meet the realities of a harsher, competitive world.

Howell Britton, chairman of the council's industry committee, said: "There we were, a town on the periphery of the UK economy that had been deprived of special status just when we needed it. The decline was hard to take because it had happened so quickly." The basis for the fight back was formulated in a special study of the town, sponsored by the Thomson Organisation Ltd., one of the leading companies associated with the Special Programmes Unit established by the CBI.

Gordon Brunton, chief executive of the International Thomson Organisation and a director of the special unit, was convinced that to tackle the problem of Neath and other towns, more had to be done than merely to support the short-term palliatives of the Youth Opportunity Scheme.

In short, the town, while

hustling for all the external aid it could get, had to help itself and his company decided to offer practical assistance. One advantage was that although Thomson owned the local newspaper, it was not a major employer and felt therefore that it could take an independent stance.

After the three month study was completed in August 1981, it was presented to Neath Borough Council, who accepted the formation of the Neath Development Partnership. Two conditions were immediately accepted. It would be non-political and only those who could work hard or contribute would be chosen as members.

The suspicion that lingered

From that loose knit development, the partnership has evolved into the Neath Development Partnership Enterprise Limited and it has eight constituent members. From the private sector they are: International Thomson Organisation, Metal Box, British Petroleum and P.A. Management Consultants. The public sector is represented by Neath Borough Council and the West Glamorgan County Council and the other members are the Wales TUC and the Welsh Development Agency.

Initially, the private sector

initiative, in a town that did not return even one Tory representative, was treated with suspicion by some councillors. Two ideologies were combining and although the cause was common for some, the pill took a little time to dissolve.

The welding of the two sides into a totally non-political force working for the town was helped considerably in the early stages with the nomination by Metal Box, another supporter of the CBI unit, of Mr Britton, who is also a AUEW convener.

He is now part of a small team, headed by Mr Jeremy Filmer-Bennett of Thomsons, who are turning into reality the objectives of the town study.

Authoritative analysis had forecast that 22.4 per cent of the population would be out of work by the end of 1983, but the figure is now 15.2 per cent, compared with 16 per cent for the whole of the principality. Male unemployment is scarcely worse than for the rest of Britain, although the figures for females are worse.

Since the partnership began, 400 permanent new jobs have been created and there are confident predictions that another 400 will materialize this year. Some of those placements have come from the 500 people who have benefited from various Manpower Services Commission schemes.

The first step was carefully to pick people who were doers rather than talkers. The philos-

ophy as expressed by Filmer-Bennett was simple: "If you have nothing to bring you can't come to the picnic."

With the team assembled, incorporating as it does the knowledge and ability to chase whatever government and private money is available, the partnership set about its work.

There was a realisation that no magic sponge would emerge in the form of a new major employer, so the development partnership set about establishing small business units.

More than 80 older, unemployed men using money from the Community Enterprise Programme started a number of schemes, including the refurbishing of the old Mettoy warehouse.

This has now become the Lonlas Village Workshops and since it was opened in June 1982, more than 40 units have been taken, creating over 100 permanent jobs. Because of careful vetting and an expert advisory service, occupancy levels have taken less than half the time with other agencies and remarkably there have been no failures to date. In spite of the fact that tenants are charged the full economic rent.

Two other developments, Glynne Workshops and 12 starter units at the Neath Abbey Business Park are now being let and a private developer is promoting similar premises near the town centre.

The initial survey indicated

that Neath was being bypassed in the use of new technology. Action was swift and Metal Box and the borough council sponsored and information technology centre in the town. The first batch of 30 students left last September and 27 of them went either into permanent jobs or to advanced university courses. This year, there are 40 students at the Centre and there are plans to establish a Micro Technology Development Company.

Neath does not leap to the lips when tourism is talked of, although more than 170,000 people visit the area each year. Most of them visit the privately owned and imaginative Pencynor Wildlife Park. John Carr, the business development director, believes his integrated tourism plan can swell that figure to perhaps 600,000 a year.

Historic and under-promoted antiquities like Neath Abbey already exist, while the Forestry Commission is beginning to open up the 42,000 acre Rheola Forest to the public.

From Roman monuments to industrial revolution iron works, the area provides a treasure of architectural interests which are being incorporated into a comprehensive package. This will include a dry ski slope, a 90 berth marina, youth hostel, chalet and caravan park, information centres and well defined country walks.

Under the direction of 38 supervisors, the 400 manual workers have already completed 21 projects ranging from the restoration of a church to landscaping a once ugly tip. This year, they hope to complete another 20 tasks.

As the partnership progresses, working closely with government agencies and with anyone who has something to offer, the target it set itself of creating 1,000 permanent jobs appears to be on the near horizon. And they will have been achieved at a cost to the Government of less than £2m, which in terms of today's capital intensive industrial developments, represents good value for money.

At our finishing school we encourage you to get your hands dirty.

Crude oil isn't the only thing Shell refine. At our Stanlow refinery we've been knocking the rough edges off 16-year-old school-leavers.

Last year 300 youngsters joined Shell throughout the UK for a year's foundation training. (It's all part of the Government's Youth Training Scheme.)

From the word go they rolled up their sleeves and shared the workload with our permanent staff.

At Stanlow, 40 young people joined our engineering foundation course - a demanding combination of shop floor practice and school room theory.

We hope some will stay on to

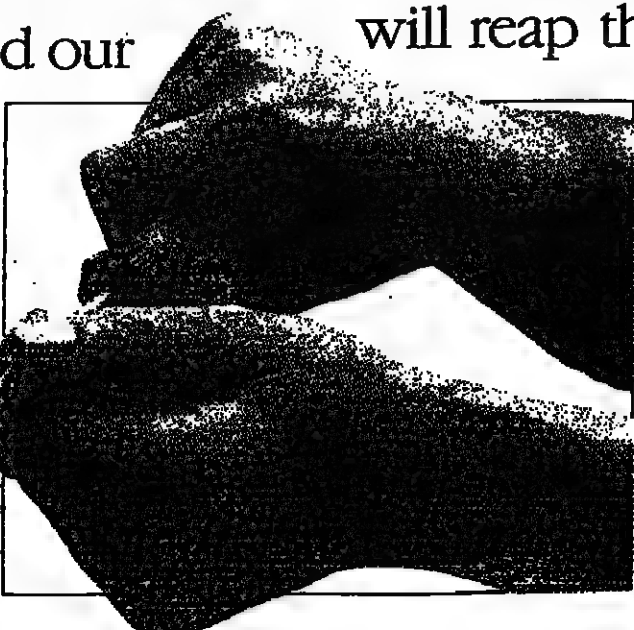
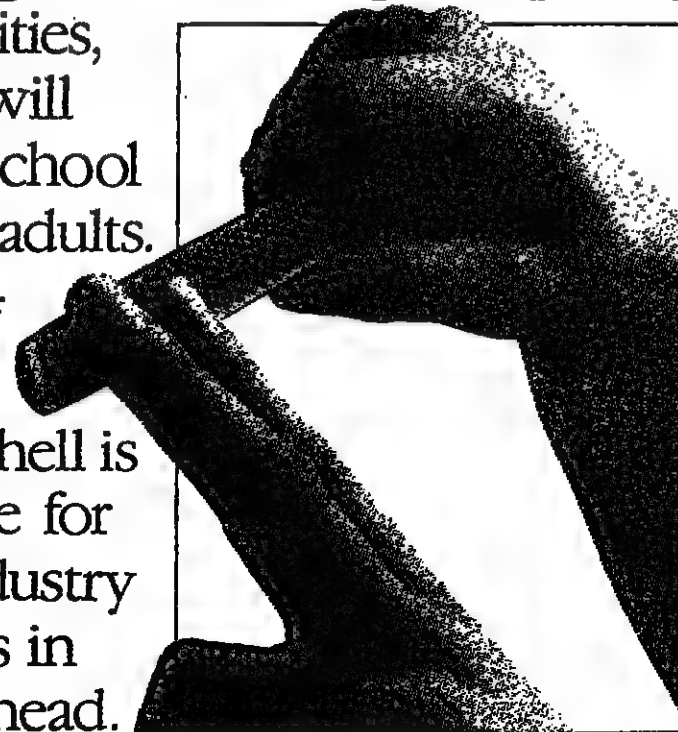
finish a full 4-year engineering apprenticeship.

Others are working on accounting, computing and horticultural activities, developing skills that will transform them from school children to employable adults.

This is no story of hardened oilmen going soft. If a year at Shell is a rewarding experience for the youngsters, then industry will reap these rewards in the years ahead.

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Offering a friendly hand

Having met the immediate objective of persuading employers to offer temporary training places, several of the Community Action Programme boards are starting to examine ways of creating permanent jobs. In the 1960s the big retailers pioneered with considerable success a form of job-sharing in order to stay open on Saturdays. More recently, organizations like CEC have been experimenting with job-sharing specifically to alleviate youth unemployment.

Largely as a result of the GEC initiative, a government grant designed to encourage employers to split jobs was introduced last year. The grant offers £750 to an employer for each job which is "split" and for which an eligible recruit is employed.

The GEC pilot sphere, introduced in Coventry in June 1981, involved school-leavers, who were required to attend a specially commissioned course of study at the local technical college for one of their non-working days. However, the job-sharing concept is also seen as potentially useful for adults who may want to work part-time to ease themselves into retirement or to bring up children.

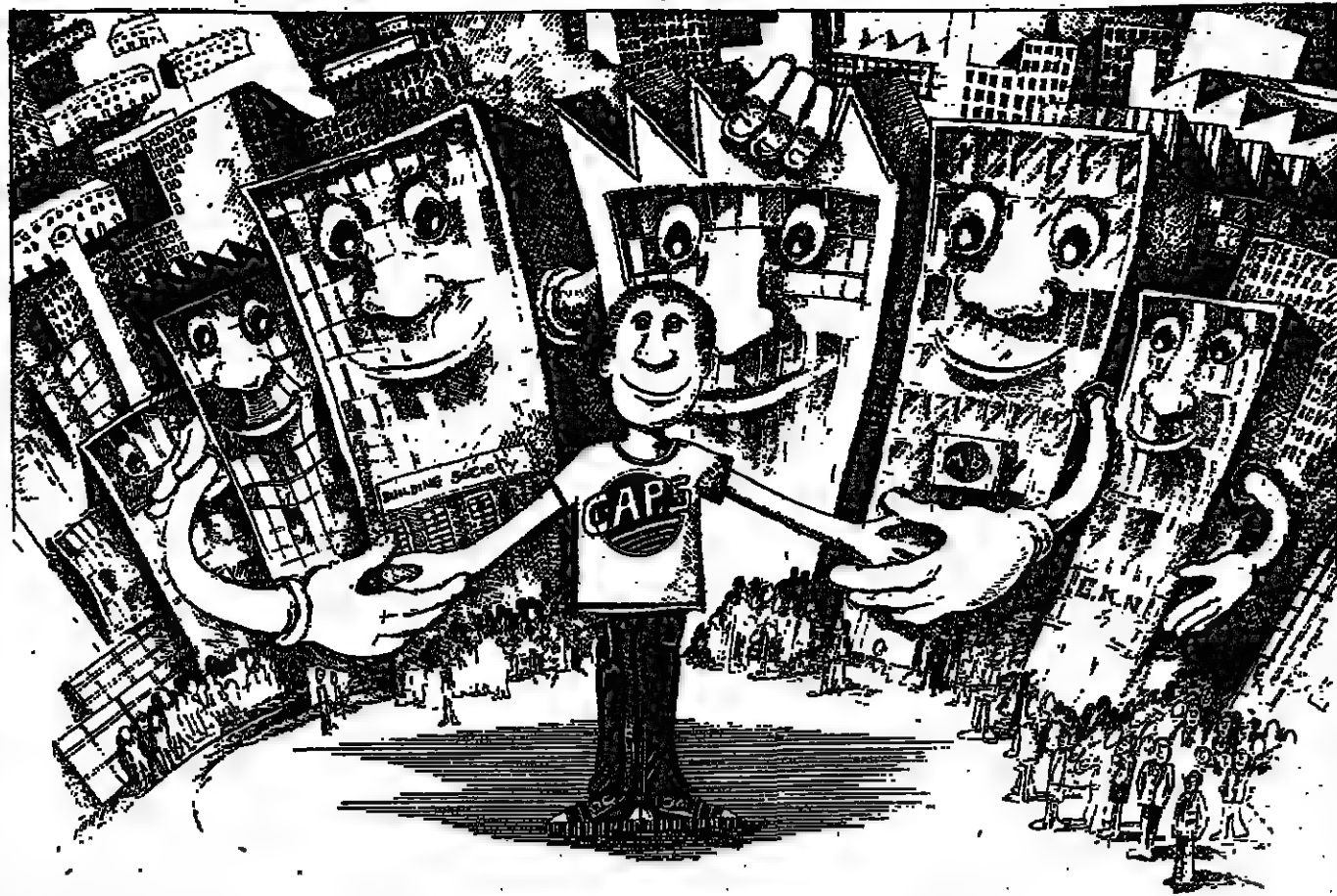
In practice, the take-up has been disappointing. A study produced by Incomes Data Services reported that three months after the introduction only 398 part-time jobs had resulted from 9,000 inquiries by employers. One company told IDS that it was put off the scheme because local colleges did not repeat "day-release" courses during the week. Since the company wanted job-sharers to go to college on their "non-working" days, only half of them could attend the most suitable courses. Other employers complained that participation would force them to recruit a lower calibre of applicant than they would normally.

Employers working collectively at grassroots, rather than head-office, level are much better placed not only to identify government assistance which relates to their area but also to resolve snags in its implementation. A guide compiled by Peat Marwick Mitchell has identified more than 300 different government grants which are available to companies.

In designing its New Enterprise Workshops scheme, which started at Toxteth, Liverpool, in May 1982, BAT Industries was able to build on the experience of other organizations, such as the British Steel Corporation, in encouraging businesses to develop by providing small, low-cost workshops. The unique contribution of the BAT Industries Small Business subsidiary was to design a method of harnessing tax allowances and subsidies so as to make the workshop project virtually self-financing. By negotiating a lease-back arrangement with the Lombard North Centre Bank, BAT was able to offset its previously unused industrial building allowance against the £750,000 cost of converting an unused dockyard shed into 60 small workshops.

Mr Alleyne Reynolds, managing director of BAT Industries Small Business, explains that while his company guarantees the rent to Lombard, this is covered by incoming rents from the tenants. Individual workshop rents are geared to the local going-rate but are offered on an "easy-in easy-out" monthly basis so that tenants do not have to make a heavy financial commitment before they can set up in business. There are, moreover, on-site management services available that offer central security, cleaning, administration, marketing and other facilities.

Mr Reynolds and his colleagues have been sufficiently encouraged by their experiences



at Toxteth, which not only directly provides about 300 jobs, but has also encouraged the local community to embark on a second scheme. This involves converting the disused Bon Marché department store at Brixton, London, into a mixed development of about 100 workshops, retail units and offices. The first units, located at the High Street front of the Brixton building, are scheduled to be ready for occupation in May and the rest later this year.

A video programme describing the workshop project was made by a Liverpool producing company and shown to BAT's own employees. However, it has proved so popular with external organizations, including the CBI-SPU unit, that a further 40 copies and an abridged version dealing specifically with financing have been made.

Measures to prevent collapses and methods of encouraging the growth of existing businesses are also being examined by the special programmes unit. "We have come across companies with thousands of pounds held on current account at the bank and earning no interest," Mr Cooke says, giving one example of unbusiness-like methods. Another he quotes is the works manager who does not even know where the heating boiler is located, let alone its energy consumption. "If we can save a single company with 150 employees from going under, we are achieving the equivalent of an entire new workshop project," Mr Cooke asserts.

A specific method by which large organizations may be able to help smaller ones is by releasing to them the fruits of research and development programmes on products which the originating companies find they cannot themselves manufacture economically.

A desire to help smaller organizations benefit from its £65m a year research budget prompted British Telecom to set up its technology consultancy scheme about two years ago. Still in an experimental stage, this makes material

available at a nominal fee to companies that cannot afford to fund their own research.

British Telecom is also investigating the potential for "hooking out" products which arise incidentally from research into other areas. Scientists frequently discover by-products which are ancillary to the main direction of their programmes - plastic-coating methods discovered while examining metal was one example offered by British Telecom. Large organizations frequently shelve such inventions if they have no direct application for themselves.

Most people accept that there is not likely to be any single answer to the question of job creation - at least for the foreseeable future - and that unemployment is likely to remain a significant social issue. By experimenting with a variety of projects, industrialists have already moved a long way from the attitudes expressed to a PA Management Consultancy team in 1981 which were broadly expressed as "My job is to secure more orders. This will provide a sound future for the company, which will in turn provide more jobs".

Patricia Tisdall

Call in the flying squad

Business in the Community (BIC), backed by more than 60 organizations, two thirds of them mostly the big blue chip companies, was launched in early 1981 to give a lead to the local enterprise agency movement. This movement started in 1978, a response to the problem of unemployment and the need to promote businesses, particularly new ones.

Now there are about 150 around the country and Mr David Trippier, the Minister for Small Businesses, wants to see this number double, to about 300 within three years. Even though he believes the majority of agencies have been a success, with none so far fallen by the wayside, he is anxious about quality because he believes it is the effective agency which can be a leader in getting a community to pull itself up by its boot straps. This ministerial drive behind the agency movement underlines the importance

of BIC whose chief executive, Mr Stephen O'Brien, sees it as "a kind of crusade for corporate social responsibility".

There are estimated to be some 1,700 companies, large and small, extending some form of help to enterprise agencies around the country. Usually local authorities are also involved although Mr Trippier has reservations about too dominant a role being played by them. If directors of agencies come from local government there is a danger of simply extending bureaucracy, he believes.

But in many agencies both big national companies and local companies second executives to help run agencies and often offer counselling help for new and expanding companies. It is a chance for younger executives to get wider experience and, for those nearing retirement, to pass on their experience and expertise.

A fresh spate of companies have been joining BIC in recent months, according to Mr O'Brien. About another 50 agencies are now in prospect, some at the discussion stage. He is nevertheless worried that some agencies could be facing difficulties. He said: "It is relatively easy for a new agency. There is great enthusiasm and everybody flocks round with support. But establishing agencies has clearly proved more glamorous to sponsoring companies than continuing support".

To help with this problem BIC has set up a unit which acts as a "flying squad" available by invitation to mount a special marketing campaign for individual agencies. But BIC has also warned the Government that, while attracting more companies to the cause, as with funding, more resources are desirable from the public sector.

One channel is urban renewal money. BIC can also draw on a "pump priming" fund for agencies worth £75,000 for the current financial year. Up to £2,000 can go to assist a newly-formed agency, provided there is no other assistance from the Department of Trade and Industry. There is some financing possible for agency directors to attend a business school course and to put together publicity material.

The supply of able secondaries also seems to be drying up. Mr O'Brien warns, "This probably reflects the increased demands within the agency movement, he adds. A substantial proportion of secondments still come from not much more than a score of big companies."

Enterprise agencies are playing an increasingly important role in rural areas as well as the more obvious jobs provided

by towns and cities. There are a number now in the West Country and Wales as well as areas like the Isle of Wight. Nests of small workshops can reduce reliance on agriculture and businesses can be developed to provide services in nearby towns. Now there are so many different sources of funds for small business start-ups and expansion it is becoming increasingly important for enterprise agency staffs to know their way around the market place. To help with this BIC is about to start a series of "no frills" conferences.

BIC is now setting up a regional structure to help promote an increase in the number of agencies, as well as offering more help to those already operating. A new arm of BIC, created last November, is City of London Business in the Community, aimed at persuading the City's financial institutions to put resources into agencies or other voluntary initiatives in inner city areas. Mr O'Brien said: "Already companies with little or no work are coming forward."

City of London BIC has its own governing council and seconded staff. Executive director is Mr Neville Bedford, seconded from the Bank of England. It is the same pattern with Scottish Business in the Community which is supported by more than 40 leading companies and organizations. Last year eight local enterprise trusts were set up with ScotBIC help in urban areas ranging in size from Glenrothes to Glasgow. By the end of this year another 14 partnerships are expected to be in operation. Some 400 local companies will by then be involved in this enterprise agency work around Scotland.

There is a wider organizational question which is now being explored in talks between BIC and the Confederation of British Industry Special Programmes Unit (SPU). Most of the big company backers of the two organizations are the same. There is also the question of how far the work of the two organizations overlap. By Easter a report is expected on whether the two should merge.

Under examination also is whether there should be a closer working relationship with the Action Resource Centre, which has specialized in organizing secondment of experienced business executives. Mr O'Brien believes that after the phase of myriads of business - aid organizations being set up, there is a natural second phase of structural change to make such work more effective.

Derek Harris

GKN

commitment to the future

With its wealth of industrial experience and as a leader in technology, GKN commends the work of the CBI special programmes unit and looks forward to continuing its involvement with the community action programmes and other initiatives designed to create real employment opportunities.

GKN is playing a leading role in establishing the community action programmes in Birmingham and Lincoln.

GKN factories have successfully operated YTS pilot schemes in Ayr, Chesterfield, Lichfield, Bromsgrove and Maidenhead.

GKN in 1983/84, is running eight company-based managing agencies in engineering, scaffolding and commercial areas, throughout the UK.

GKN Forgings Division provides a managing agency for small employers who are offering 160 training places in the Bromsgrove area.

GKN supports other managing agents by offering extensive work experience opportunities in its smaller plants.

GKN is becoming increasingly active in supporting the new technological and vocational education initiative.

GKN executives are actively involved in many aspects of the programme.



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The early days of the Youth Opportunities Programme, set up in 1978 as the unemployment shadows lengthened, saw the main response come from small companies with fewer than 20 employees.

"Possibly 40 to 50 per cent of YOP places were just cheap labour," recalls James Cooke, chief executive of the Confederation of British Industry's special programme unit. He went on: "Moreover at the localized level there were no forecasts of likely unemployment trends, nor of investment intentions by companies or strategies to meet the problems. Britain was flying blind."

This was the situation in 1980, when the CBI group was set up at the behest of the Department of Employment and the Manpower Services Commission. The aim was to involve the big employers in the Government's employment measures and give the MSC an extra management arm which could also help in the formulation of strategy.

By 1981, the fruits of the CBI initiative were showing through. The number of work experience places for youngsters grew by about a quarter to around 500,000 and, of this additional growth, the confederation was able to claim the creation of some 40 per cent of the new places. This amounted to upwards of 35,000 places.

The following year 10,000 pilot one-year training places had also been created. In the earlier years of the youth schemes 85 per cent of youngsters were going on to get jobs but as the unemployment queues lengthened this proportion inevitably shrank. Nevertheless some 35 per cent are still getting jobs. Mr Cooke points out.

The Cooke target roughly speaking had been the top 200 companies. There was a lot of localized expertise to be tapped in the CBI's regional structure. The relative ignorance among big companies about the Government's youth initiatives could be breached quickly enough, producing an immediate groundswell of support.

The early priority was to find out what was happening on the ground, to produce local employment forecasts and the likely duration of such problems - particularly as it concerns youngsters. Most companies and regions shares a depressing view of employment prospects over a three year period, especially for the young unskilled, the CBI group found.

The other question was to see how far employers could be encouraged to shoulder responsibility for local problems and, it was hoped, take more advantage of the MSC programmes.

The first town studies showed that a wide discrepancy was there between localities. Forecasts of unemployment among school leavers varied between 42 per cent and 74 per cent - again emphasizing the need to tackle problems on a local basis. Localized community action programmes were seen as the catalyst in seeking answers to these problems.

Setting up such a programme was recognized as a time-consuming and exacting operation and certainly not a magic wand that would somehow bring instant results. The full commitment of key local businessmen was seen as crucial.

It meant squeezing every advantage out of the business contacts network of members of the CBI group's board and the top regional officials of the CBI. Staff in the field added their muscle to that of Mr Cooke and his London-based team.

The drive was to involve the key local managers running their own companies who could act decisively rather than attracting those with a softer focus such as representatives of national and regional organizations. This was not easy because such local managers were busy men.

It was seen as crucial that local authority chief executives were directly involved together with the MSC usually in the person of the regional manpower services director.

By mid-1982, with six local programmes started as well as three town studies made, the group had learned about setting up employer groups and managing them and was satisfied that the work was valuable if only as a support for the MSC. But Whitehall was already talking of developing the Youth Training Scheme, the successor to YOP through a large number of local initiatives. The group demonstrated that it could show how this could be done.

This was the extra dynamic behind the subsequent growth of the programme and at the same time their aims were refined. The main vehicle was seen as a supervisory board, assessment of employer re-

Tapping local knowledge

sources was necessary as well as the extent of the youth employment problems likely to be faced, taking usually a five-year view. That way there was an increasing chance of a realistic input to Whitehall to help produce a Government policy

founded, as the CBI group's report put it, "on the realities of the mid-1980s work-place" and looking to conditions likely to occur towards the end of the century.

A strong supervisory board chairman, with members

committed to achieving success locally, was seen as one key element for any successful local programme. The importance of secondaries to help push through programmes was underlined, the main sources for them being large companies, local authorities and public bodies like the police.

D.M.

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GENERATING JOBS

'Cheap labour' fear that won't go away

Youth training: where have the recruits gone?

The London Chamber of Commerce's youth training scheme, Enterprise Training, ought to have been a roaring success. Three training centres, staffed by full time professionals, were set up in Acton, Waterloo and Bethnal Green. They offered just the kind of skills now in constant demand: keyboard training, computer literacy, word processing, the fundamentals of import and export.

Last summer the chamber was planning for an autumn start, leading to a build up to 1,000 trainees by June 1984: trainees would get 13 weeks of training at one of the centres and 39 weeks of work experience provided by London firms.

That was the theory. By now, 675 trainees should have been signed on. The scheme has attracted less than a third of that number. It is a pattern which is being repeated in many schemes around the country.

Staff at the chamber blame three main factors. First, children (and often their parents and teachers) think the scheme is just a variation of the old Youth Opportunities Programme, which provided no training and was treated by many employers as simply a means of getting cheap labour. Second, money: many school leavers feel they will get as much, or more, on the dole. Finally, there are more jobs available than was predicted (which may be good for those who get them but is not such good news for organizations setting up schemes at the behest of the Manpower Services Commission only to find that the demand is not there.)

Lindsay Phillips, seconded from IBM to help the chamber's effort, is disturbed: he believes that quite apart from those who are registered as still without work there are a great number

of children in London who have slipped through the net.

He says: "I don't know why we're not getting them but I suspect it's first of all because the young people don't know about it and their peer groups and the youth club leaders and I suspect a lot of the people in the school, particularly Inner London Education Authority schools, are not in favour of it. There are some school people very interested, but generally the school people have been lukewarm."

Phillips contacted the CBI special programmes unit. It is still very early days, and Phillips and his staff do not think that the unit is some kind of cavalry which will ride to the rescue and solve everyone's problems overnight.

Phillips says: "One of the areas that they think they can help us in is to get the managing agents together to put pressure on the education authorities, to allow us access to the kids in the schools so we can provide them with the sort of information about what is available in YTS. We don't feel that either the youngsters or their parents have the information at the moment."

Paying money every day

Phillips is also pleased by the work being done by one of the CBI unit's seconded, who has been doing the rounds of the careers offices in London.

But he does not think these initiatives alone are going to turn around the situation overnight. He would also like help from the unit in getting a number of people on secondment to help directly with the chamber's programme.

What bothers James Cooke, the CBI unit's chief executive, is that if schemes are not filled quickly then many will lose too

much money to survive. Phillips does not think the chamber has reached danger point yet.

"We've already committed the resources in terms of premises, people and equipment. We've gone and bought all our equipment, rented our premises, hired our staff to cope with the level of trainees we were expecting. We've made that commitment and we're paying money out now, every day; so every day that we're under strength on trainees we've got expenditure at the level we expected but we've only got an income at 30 per cent of that. This obviously is a cause for tremendous concern."

The chamber is now trying to attract employed youngsters under the YTS provisions on a day release basis; this would help to ease the financial position, but it is a far cry from the original intentions.

Cooke believes the London Chamber of Commerce's problems demonstrate the value of the CBI unit as a flexible group of trouble shooters. Staff he has asked to chew over the problem include seconded from the Midland Bank, Beechams, Unilever and BP.

Cooke also believes the chamber's experience provides a first class case history which will be valuable in a project which the CBI unit is planning for 1984. The unit had already become aware of the need to market directly to the young and their parents much more forcibly than has been done in the past and London has been chosen as a pilot area. It is coordinating a series of conferences involving the MSC, careers service, teachers, media representatives and local authorities for parents and school leavers. More than 100 will be held around the country throughout the year.

Malcolm Brown



Award for Community Action man

David Wright, who has just been awarded a 1984 Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship, with Sharon O'Loughlin, a YTS trainee in the GKN computer centre, Bromsgrove. David Wright was seconded to the Special Programmes Unit in 1981 from GKN General Industries division where he was personnel director and chairman of four companies in the division. He is involved in encouraging community action programmes in Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Coventry and Lincoln, and the Travelling Fellowship is to visit Philadelphia, well known for its partnership between business and community groups, and three or four other Middle West industrial cities in the United States to look at problems of unemployment.

The debt owed to the Geordie at Vickers

Very significant progress has been reported by the major companies acting as management agencies in the Manpower Services Commission's Youth Training Scheme. Ironically, the success has come as no small surprise to those involved.

The progression has been such that of ten major companies contacted in a straw poll, all reported that since last September's intake they are actually having trouble filling the vacancies available and are having to advertise to attract youngsters into the scheme.

It has been two years since the scheme first began and companies like GKN, Vickers and its subsidiary Rolls Royce, Grand Metropolitan, Allied Breweries and Rank Xerox admit to approaching the whole project with some caution.

What has happened to make YTS one of the most enthusiastically supported schemes for youth, endorsed from both the management and the shop floor?

One of the most famous youth trainers in Britain is Les Allen at Vickers. He has been

awarded an MBE for his work and is a down-to-earth Geordie to whom many eyebrows had been raised at Vickers when this chief executive, David Plastow, said that Vickers would begin by taking on some 500 youngsters, 250 on engineering courses, another 250 on work experience places and 50 at the Rolls Royce plant at Crewe.

Mr Allen said: "So far 34 have already been snapped up for permanent jobs - in fact I've just heard that two more have got jobs today - and we're having some minor problems filling the vacancies." Local firms are approaching the management agents with specific job requirements and asking them to recommend youngsters who would be suitable.

While Mr Allen may be coy about Vicker's reputation for turning out high quality candidates the training school is frequently visited by school inspectors and career officers. The youngsters are treated as adults. They work at a factory within a factory, and that achieves an important objective. They have a chance to

experience life as it really is, and so they can determine where they want their careers to go. Once having established some direction to their lives, they are more suitable for commitment to a job. A small firm does not therefore have to go through the time-consuming and costly business of hiring and firing until a suitable trainee fits in.

The scheme provides the flexibility necessary to enable young people to take the time to think about choice before they have to exercise it.

The current economic environment has done much to change attitudes and many of the high calibre young people going into the scheme finish it with a determination to return to school or to a polytechnic to receive further education.

Within the engineering sector, companies were able to report some 15 students known to have gone back to full time education and to have subsequently obtained university places.

"Many kids change their minds about where they want to be once they have a real-life experience. And I think that is where we progress to next."

Certainly career officers find the youngsters easier to talk to and more realistic rather than having to deal with many of the childish fantasies still prevailing after finishing school. Ironically, the scheme has also managed to identify many practical skills that youngsters have that were not fully recognized within the educational system.

At GKN forgings, Nigel Cook, their YTS manager, reports much the same story as Vickers. They have 160 approved places and last year were able to fill 85. Early leavers brought that number down to 64. Of the early leavers, nine obtained permanent employment with the small firms they were placed with, another five identified other training schemes in areas they decided they wanted to try for a career, and two decided that the skills they wanted could only be

obtained back at a full-time, further education course. There were only six drop-outs.

Mr Cook, who works in Bromsgrove, has also been able to place people in retailing, clerical, secretarial, engineering and manufacturing companies. The obligation to attend at least 65-days of a further education college does much to change attitudes towards education and the young people respond positively to managing their own bank accounts.

Several important factors emerge: the confidence of local small firms employing youngsters that have been trained or had work experience with a major company; the changing attitudes of the young people themselves to the work commitment; the flexibility the scheme provides in allowing the space for the young people to develop and make a choice based on experimental knowledge, and the positive benefits to employers of having employees with an ambition to get ahead.

Wayne Lintott

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THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

The Revenue savages gilt-edged market

The Treasury and the Inland Revenue have combined to strike a sickening blow at the revenues of building societies. It will make the gilt-edged market throw up this morning and turn banks and other financial institutions pale with apprehension as they contemplate the Budget on March 13.

Without waiting for Budget ritual, the Revenue has blandly and out of the blue, informed building societies that with immediate effect they will be taxed at their special rate of 40 per cent on gains made in dealing in government and similar securities.

Building societies hold perhaps as much as a quarter of all short-dated gilt-edged stocks and significant amounts of later maturities. They have been a sturdy pillar supporting the market in government debt, to a role they have been encouraged to play not least by the official tailoring of issues to suit their particular requirements. For their part building societies have enjoyed the role. Though their capital gains are liable to normal capital gains tax, the maximum rate is 30 per cent, they have generally avoided paying any such tax by holding stock for more than a year when they automatically become exempt from CGT. Gains from gilts have been a splendid source of income expanding the funds for mortgage lending in secure and generally trouble-free ways.

Building societies paid £117m in tax in the last year for which figures are available (1981-82). If the 40 per cent charge had been in force they would have paid an extra £120m.

The Revenue's decision, which is based on "legal advice" that gilt-edged gains are properly part of building societies' trading profits, brings them in line with the way banks are taxed on their gilt profits. The Revenue claims that its action has no implications for other institutions operating in the gilt-edged market. But it will have wide-ranging implications for both building societies and for the market in government stocks.

At the Abbey National, Britain's second biggest society, Mr James Tyrrell, general manager finance, said he had read the announcement with "total incredulity."

From tomorrow morning we are going to talking about a totally different strategy in the gilt market. We are not taking this lying down.

Abbey National made gains of £12m in 1982 and considerably more in 1983, while Nationwide made investment profits of £46.5m last year, largely free of tax. Halifax, the biggest building society, also announced recently that a large part of its surplus in the year to January 30 came from gilt-edged profits.



Petherbridge: key role in Bank liaison

Stepping down

Mr Richard Petherbridge retires today after a remarkable 40 years with Union Discount. He rose to the position of senior managing director with Union, and was chairman of the London Discount Market Association during some of the most turbulent spells the money market has ever experienced. As such, he played a key role in liaising with the Bank of England.

In his more reflective moods, the gentle and genial Mr Petherbridge has been heard to compare managing the daily ups and downs of the discount market with driving an express train: just as well, then, that in his retirement he can indulge his weakness for steam engines.

Bank has lessons for industry

Two blasts from the Bank of England on successive days are, to put it mildly, unusual. But there is a logical progression from the remarks made by the deputy governor on Wednesday to the governor's speech yesterday. Mr Christopher McMahon was urging British companies to use their rebuilt profits wisely, by which he meant for productive investment rather than allowing costs to rise. Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, speaking to the National Association of Pension Funds, was urging institutional investors to use their influence on companies to ensure the same result.

Although yesterday's new figures for capital spending show a marked improvement towards the end of last year, in manufacturing they are still historically low. To some extent this reflects the shift from manufacturing to services in the economy as a whole.

The governor's arguments yesterday concerned the role of shareholders in promoting industrial health. Through their influence on the membership of company boards, Mr Leigh-Pemberton said, with a side-swipe at EEC draft directives on the composition of company boards, the institutional investors can and

should take some responsibility for industrial performance.

Mr Leigh-Pemberton, like Mr McMahon, was concerned that in existing companies, "the hard-won gains of the last few years are not frittered away."

The governor's conclusion is that institutional investors should be ready to "hypothecate" part of their budgets for high technology investment. He was careful to make it plain that he was not suggesting any fixed proportion: even so, is there any point in such exhortations? The Bank can hint the banking system in preferred directions, away from excessive mortgage lending, for example, because of the stated powers it possesses to make life uncomfortable for the wayward.

Industrial companies, even pension funds, are outside the Bank's traditional grip. Yet its reach has been extended during the past recession, when it orchestrated many a bank rescue of ailing companies - in effect, running the Government's industrial policy on the quiet. Perhaps this has given the Bank new authority to make powerful suggestions to industry - suggestions to which industry may feel obliged to listen.

ICI profits surge by £360m, but shares marked lower

By William Kay, City Editor

Imperial Chemical Industries sent the London stock market tumbling yesterday when it announced annual profit figures below analysts' best expectations. At one stage the *Financial Times* 30-share index was down 10.3 at 806.1, although it later recovered to 806.9.

However, to all but the most demanding the ICI results were excellent. Pretax profits rose from £259m to £619m on sales £898m higher at £8,256m. The final dividend is 14p, making a total up from 19p to 24p.

Nevertheless the ICI share price was cut from 602p to 576p by mid-afternoon. The shares later recovered to 586p.

An angry Mr John Harvey-Jones, ICI's chairman, told *The Times*: "I think the market had gone off its rocker with forecasts of up to £700m. There was no way we could have made that, or anything like it. I am sorry I have disappointed some of the starry-eyed optimists, but last year's result was a tremendous improvement and I am confident that we shall do well again this year."

The best contributor to the improvement was the petrochemicals plastics division, which cut its trading loss from £139m to £7m. Pharmaceutical profits rose by £61m to £199m, general chemicals by £47m to £107m and agriculture by £10m to £174m.

In an interview after yesterday's board meeting Mr Harvey-Jones said that about half the improvement had come from the company's own efforts, a

quarter from increased world demand and a quarter from the lower exchange rate's windfall effect on profit margins. The group generated £500m of cash, which was used to reduce gearing.

He added that there was still plenty to be squeezed out of improved efficiency. "We are working at only 80 per cent of capacity," he said, "so we could increase output considerably with the same workforce."

He does in fact look forward to another two years of strong growth in the company. "We have been looking at 1985 and 1986 as the years of the world economic downturn," he said. "In that context, I am pretty sure we can grow in 1984 and 1985, and some parts of the business will continue to grow

after that, but the downturn will begin to take hold."

ICI still harbours ambitions to expand in the US, but the chairman's view is that it would be best to wait until the bottom of the next trough.

Analysis was last night sticking to their 1984 predictions for the group - profits of between £800m and £860m. This would put the shares on a price/earnings ratio of 7.

● NCR Ltd: Year to Nov. 30, 1983. Figures in £000. Turnover 125,090 (116,748). Pretax profit 26,418 (23,735). The company enters 1984 with a substantial order book and this, together with other factors promises significant growth for 1984. Company is a fully-owned offshoot of NCR Corp.

Wall Street drifts down

Stocks drifted lower on moderate volume, on Wall Street yesterday when the Dow Jones industrial average was down about 4 points.

Volume was about 41 million shares. Declines were about 8-to-5 ahead of advances.

The US Commerce Department said new factory orders for durable goods rose an adjusted 1.1 per cent last month from the preceding month. The news, however, had little effect on the lack lustre market.

Technology stocks, which had a rally on Wednesday, lost most of their gains. IBM was down 1 1/2 at 157 1/2, and NCR Corp. was off 1 to 110 1/2.

Tymshare was up 1 1/2 to 15 1/2. PepsiCo, which is considering withdrawing from the transportation business, was up 1/2 to 36 1/2. General Instrument which renegotiated its takeover of Tocom, was down 1 1/2 to 25 1/2. Tocom was down 1/2 to 2 1/2.

STOCK EXCHANGES

SE 100 Index: 1043 down 1.4 (day's high: 1042.1; low 1031.7)
FT Index: 806.9 down 9.5
FT Gilt: 82.96
FT All Share: 489.89 down 4.13
Bargains: 22,660
New York: Dow Jones Average: (latest) 1129.71 down 4.50
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 9939.56 down 8.15
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1067.29 up 20.07
Amsterdam: 163.9 down 2.2
Sydney: AO index 745.5 up 1.7

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.4625 up 1.15 cents
Index 82.7 up 0.3
DM 3.8825 up 0.0250
FF 11.9525 up 0.0375
Yen 341.50 up 3.0
Dollar Index 128.0 down 0.1
DM 2.6545 down 82pts

NEW YORK LATEST

Sterling \$1.4585
Dollar DM 2.6575

INTERNATIONAL

ECU 20.577993
SDR 10.725210

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$339.75 pm \$398.25
close \$397.75-\$398.50 (£272-£272.75)
New York (latest): \$397.75
Kruggerand (per coin): \$410.411 (£280.50-£281.50)
Sovereigns (new): \$93.94 (£63.50-£64.25)
*Excludes VAT

Crown Agents' survival ensured

By Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent

The future of the Crown Agents was finally settled yesterday after months of uncertainty when the Government announced that it had decided to back the survival plan drawn up by the 131-year-old organization.

This will involve at least 250 redundancies among the 1,300 staff, the sale of its grandiose Georgian headquarters in London and a commitment to investigate ways of achieving the Crown Agents' eventual privatization.

The announcement that the Government has agreed to give the agents a further lease of life was made in the House of Commons yesterday by Mr Timothy Raison, the Minister for Overseas Development. It

followed a protracted debate in Whitehall about the best way of treating the Crown Agents after its loss last summer of a lucrative contract to manage the investment funds of the Sultan of Brunei.

Mr Raison said the Government had undertaken a thorough review of the survival plan drawn up by Mr Peter Graham, the Senior Crown Agent and, as a result, expected the agents to be fully profitable again by 1986.

The sale of the head office in Millbank, London, is expected to more than halve the outstanding capital debt owed to the Government from £19m to £9m. In addition, the Government has agreed to waive the interest payment of

Earnings at Plessey up 25%

By Jeremy Warner

Plessey, the telecommunications and electronic group, helped to unsettle the stock market yesterday by announcing third quarter figures which were lower than expected.

Pretax profits were 25 per cent higher at £43.7m, lifting the nine-month total from £102m to £124.6m. The company's share price fell 14p to 200p.

Mr Peter Marshall, the group's finance director, said he was perplexed at the market's reaction. "I do not know what you have to do to please them. Maybe they have not noticed that the interim dividend is up 15 per cent, and that we have brought its payment date forward by two months," he said.

The main boost to results again came from defence electronics, where profits leapt 69 per cent, helped by exported sales growth in military communications and radar.

In telecommunications, the largest of the group's business activities, only edged ahead to £52.3m, held back by continued losses at Stromberg-Carlson, the main exchange company in the US, which was acquired in October 1982.

Mr Marshall said that Plessey had budgeted for two years of losses when it bought Stromberg, and that the company had consistently performed better than expected.

Plan for US trustee at Reuters

By Our City Staff

Reuters Trustees are to appoint a prominent member of American public life to their ranks once the news agency and business information group is floated in May. It will be the first US involvement in Reuters.

The number of Trustees will be raised by four to 14 - but not all the extra places will be taken at once. Three will definitely be filled one by an American and the other two by British public figures.

The American appointment will reflect the number of US investors who are expected to buy Reuters shares. Of the additional British Trustees, one has already agreed to stand.

Lord Hartwell, who leads the Daily Telegraph Ltd, is chairman of a sub-committee of Trustees recommending appointments. He said: "We can't give any names yet because they have not formally been agreed. I expect they will be in the prospectus. We are looking for people who know something about agencies and the media, but who have a reputation for achievement in other fields."

Two other new names will take their places after the end of next month, they will be replacing Mr Angus McLachlan, the Trustee chairman, who represents the Australian Press, but has suffered ill-health recently and Mr Geoffrey Upton of New Zealand News Ltd. He acted as chairman at Tuesday's Trustees' meeting which agreed fresh proposals to keep Reuters independent.

There is still no progress from the entrenched positions taken by the Reuters Board and the big pension funds and insurance companies. The financial institutions are objecting to the issue of one class of share, carrying a majority of the total votes held by the newspaper owners of Reuters and not traded. The shares being sold to the public have only one vote each.

As a result, the share issue may have to be underwritten in America where Reuters also intends to obtain a listing. The EEC's Fifth Directive: currently working its way through the British system, effectively outlaws non-voting shares unless member-countries state otherwise.

Burmah strikes oil in North Sea's deepest well

By Philip Robinson

Burmah Oil Exploration, the operator and significant stakeholder in North Sea block 22/2, has struck oil drilling the deepest well yet on the British Continental Shelf.

Tests have indicated a total fluid rate of 4,500 barrels-a-day and an oil flow rate of 2,500 barrels a day.

The well was started last June after Burmah, Charterhouse Oil and Gas, Charterhouse Petroleum, Svenska Petroleum Exploration and Norsk Hydro Petroleum, acting as a consortium, were awarded rights to the block for £5m in the seventh round of North Sea licences.

Burmah's claim that the 18,030 feet drilling below the Kelly Bushing - the starting point for deep sea measurements - was the deepest, was confirmed by the Department of Energy. However, the department could not say by how much the depth was increased on the previous record.

Burmah is evaluating the results of drilling in the block which is 150 miles north east of Aberdeen and 14 miles north east of the Forties Field.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ladbroke lifts bid

Ladbroke Group has increased its offer for Turi Paradise in the US from \$7 to \$8.75 per share in return for a board recommendation. Shareholders in Turi Paradise, who own 32 per cent of the shares, have agreed to tender their shares.

● The Asian Development Bank's issues of £100m 10 1/2 per cent loan stock 2009 has been oversubscribed. Applications will be scaled down. Amounts for £10,000 will be allocated in full. Applicants for between £20,000 and £40,000 will get £10,000; from £50,000 to £100,000 will get £12,500 and from £200,000 to £300,000 will receive £25,000.

● New orders received by US manufacturers for durable goods rose \$1.06 billion (£746m) or 1.1 per cent, in January to a seasonally adjusted \$99.22 billion.

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates
Bank base rates 9
Finance houses base rate 9 1/2
Discount market loans week fixed 9 1/2 - 9
3 month interbank 9 1/2 - 9 1/2

Euro-currency rates
3 month dollar 10 1/2 - 10 1/2
3 month DM 5 1/2 - 5 1/2
3 month Fr 11 1/2 - 11 1/2

US rates
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9 1/2
Treasury long bond 98 1/2 - 98 1/2

ECOD Fixed Rate Sterling
Export Finance Scheme IV
Average reference rate for interest period January 4, 1984 to February 7, 1984 inclusive: 9.493 per cent.

Beecham buys 'entry' to Italy for £42.3m

By Our City Staff

Beecham has plugged the only gap in its worldwide pharmaceutical marketing network by buying a big Italian drug company, the 120-year-old Dr L. Zambelletti, for £42.3m cash.

Italy is the fifth biggest pharmaceutical market in the world but Beecham has not sold its drugs there except through licensing arrangements. Under Italian law pharmaceutical companies must have a local manufacturing base before selling their product.

Sir Graham Wilkins, Beecham's chairman, said yesterday that the acquisition was mainly for the opportunity it gave Beecham to enter the Italian market rather than for Zambelletti's manufacturing business.

Zambelletti is publicly quoted in Italy but Beecham has acquired the 83.8 per cent of the shares which were in the hands of the Zambelletti family. Beecham has previously suffered in Italy from the lack of patent protection which allowed local manufacturers to copy its products.

There is still no progress from the entrenched positions taken by the Reuters Board and the big pension funds and insurance companies. The financial institutions are objecting to the issue of one class of share, carrying a majority of the total votes held by the newspaper owners of Reuters and not traded. The shares being sold to the public have only one vote each.

As a result, the share issue may have to be underwritten in America where Reuters also intends to obtain a listing. The EEC's Fifth Directive: currently working its way through the British system, effectively outlaws non-voting shares unless member-countries state otherwise.

Institute fears recovery may fade next year

Call for expansionary Budget

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

A plea for a "moderately expansionary" Budget directed at measures to boost investment in manufacturing industry and the public sector has come from the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, the independent forecasting group.

In its February *Economic Review* published yesterday, the institute says that low investment is not only holding back the recovery, but also threatens to impair longer term growth.

The institute expects growth of 2.2 per cent this year, the same as last year and slight improvement on its forecast of three months ago, mainly because it is more optimistic about consumer spending. The discrepancy between this and the Treasury's 3 per cent growth forecast is less than it seems because they are using different measures of gross domestic product.

But the institute foresees the recovery fading next year, with growth of only 1.5 per cent, unemployment rising to 3.2 million by Christmas 1985 after sticking at 3.0 million this year and inflation accelerating to 6.8 per cent by the end of 1983 and to 7.8 per cent a year later from about 5 per cent today.

The review says that the lacklustre recovery so far has mainly reflected inadequate investment. The other components of demand in the economy - consumer spending, government consumption and exports - are all higher than they were before the recession, but investment is still much lower, it says. Echoing the remarks on Wednesday by Mr Christopher "Kit" McMahon, deputy governor of the Bank of England, the review goes on: "In the longer term, lack of new capacity may make it impossible to retain a

high level of employment or climb back on to the previous trend of growth."

The institute, lining up behind the industry, urges the Chancellor to reduce, or abolish, the National Insurance Surcharge which it says would stimulate investment and stock building, reduce inflation and help jobs by lowering labour costs.

● Manufacturing investment picked up sharply in the final quarter of last year, the first significant increase since the recession began. From the third to fourth quarters, investment rose by 4.2 per cent, though in 1983 as a whole it was 6.8 per cent lower than the previous year. By contrast, investment in construction, distribution and financial services surged to record levels last year, up 8.4 per cent from 1982.

Plessey success continues

Nine Months' Results

An extract from The Plessey Company's unaudited consolidated results

	13 weeks ended 30 Dec 1983	39 weeks ended 30 Dec 1983	39 weeks ended 31 Dec 1982	
● Group sales up 19.6%	288,908	872,096	729,027	
● Pre-tax profits up 22.2%	37,203	103,221	82,251	
● Earnings per share up 27.4%	43,670	124,601	102,000	
	Earnings per share (pence)	3.62p	9.71p	7.62p

Whymy

PLESSEY

The Plessey Company plc, Vicarage Lane, Ilford, Essex IG1 4AQ.

Andrew Cornelius reports on GKN's bid for AE

Monopoly ruling could shape future of components industry

The next test of Britain's inconsistent competition policy will come with the decision whether to allow Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds to pursue its takeover attempt for the rival Midlands motor component manufacturer AE (formerly Associated Engineering).

The Monopolies Commission report on the takeover will be delivered to Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, any day now. His recommendation will follow next month.

Meanwhile, the leading companies in Britain's 1984-style leaner and fitter motor components industry await what they regard as a long overdue statement from the Government on main way ahead. Sir Trevor Holdsworth, chairman of GKN, sees the report of the Monopolies Commission, and the Trade Secretary's response as crucial for the survival of an industry still smarting from the recession.

The shakeout by component makers has seen an average 40 per cent cut in workforces between 1980 and 1983, and brought companies like Dunlop to their knees.

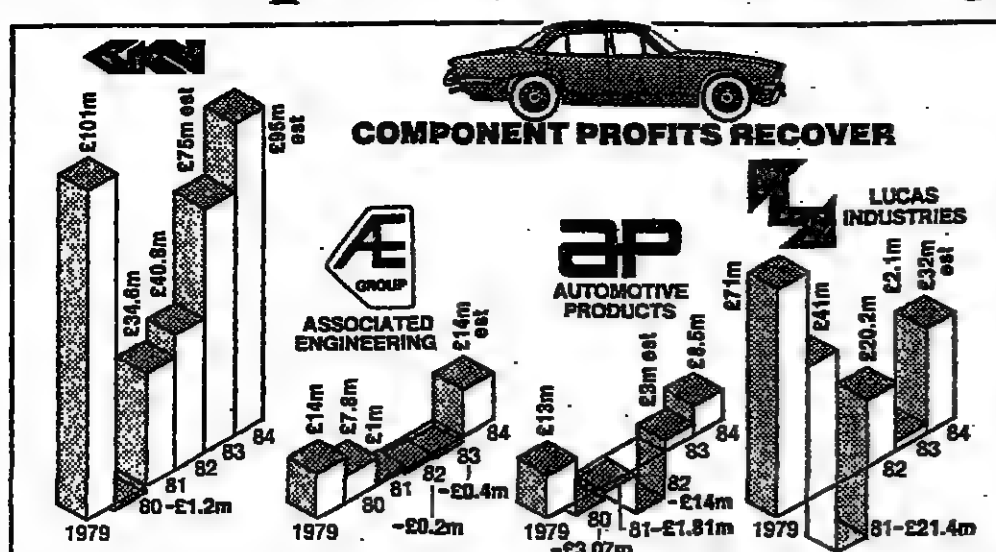
The process has cost GKN alone £200m. For that, the group was able to pay off half its workforce, bringing the number of British employees down to 35,000 and also to change the identity of the group. It is now firmly entrenched as an automotive company and no longer dependent on its broader-based steel, nuts and bolts and engineering businesses.

At AE, Automotive Products, Lucas Industries and smaller companies like Armstrong Equipment the story is much the same. AE's workforce is down by nearly half to 16,000 people. Automotive Products has reduced its British workforce by more than 30 per cent to 8,700 people. Lucas has given warning that it must continue to cut jobs despite the draconian measures taken already and, at Armstrong, two years of rationalization have reduced the workforce by half, to 4,100 people.

The effect on company balance sheets has been devastating. GKN plunged to losses of £1.2m in 1980 against pretax profits of £126m the previous year. The mighty Lucas Industries group, Britain's largest motor components group, last year made losses of £17.2m on components turnover of nearly £1 billion.

At the same time millions of pounds were wiped off the market capitalisation of the motor components sector, leaving companies like Dunlop vulnerable to any group wanting to build up a stake in a buyers' market.

Smaller companies like Armstrong, which manufactures exhausts and suspension struts, were available last year at about £6m, if judged by their market capitalization. Even at today's share levels the company is valued at little more than £12m. And in a recent report of the Lucas group, the brokers Philips and Drew noted that Lucas is valued at less than twice its



annual spending on research and development.

Yet despite the problems, there are signs that the British motor components industry is moving out of the disaster zone. Leading companies are beginning to move out of recession and analysts are forecasting improved profits in the current year in virtually every instance.

Sentiment was helped by the boom in car sales after the introduction of the A-plate registration last autumn. But increasingly the success of individual companies is being judged on their ability to penetrate overseas markets. For Automotive Products, which returned to the black at the halfway stage last year with pretax profits of £1m after losses of £14.1m in 1982, the turning point may have come with the announcement of a £15m-a-year contract to supply clutches and brakes to Fiat in Italy.

Car components industry shows signs of moving out of disaster zone

Most of the parts will be supplied from a factory built by AP at Savona, in north-west Italy. But Mr George Pears, the chairman, says the contract is an essential part of AP's strategy to raise revenue from abroad from 33 per cent to 50 per cent over the next five years.

Armstrong Equipment is also looking for increased profits from abroad, after clinching a deal to supply shock absorbers for a new Volkswagen car to be built in China. The contract could add £1m to profits over the next seven years and will help the company's return to profitability after losses of £1.1m in the year to last July.

The shakeout in the British market also helped to pave the way for the deal by Lucas Industries and Smiths Industries to establish a joint-venture automotive electronics company, Lucas Electrical Electronics & Systems. The new company began trading last April with an anticipated

annual turnover of about £120m and 7,000 employees. The aim is to exploit a European market for electronics components worth £500m this year and likely to grow 30 per cent each year until the 1990s.

The deal sets a useful precedent for GKN in its campaign to win clearance for the AE takeover. Together, Lucas and Smiths have more than 75 per cent of the British market for automotive electronic components like ignition equipment, instrument systems, and display panels and engine management systems. But the new company was established with the support of the Department of Trade and Industry - in the shape of research grants - on the grounds that its share of the European market would be only 20 per cent.

Sir Trevor Holdsworth is puzzled by the apparent change of heart at the DTI in referring the bid for AE for investigation by the Monopolies Commission. Previously the DTI had encouraged any moves to strengthen the British motor components industry so that it could compete on equal terms in a wider market place, he says. In the depths of the recession the Government had been prime mover in bringing about the type of deal proposed by GKN, he suggests.

A merger of GKN and AE clearly warrants an investigation in terms of the monopoly it would create in the supply of bearings, pistons and cylinder linings in Britain. Sir Trevor believes the Government is taking the opportunity to investigate once and for all the merits of defining the market place in European or world terms, rather than purely British.

In some respects he believes GKN has also suffered from changes at the level of secretary of State and top civil servants at the DTI. Almost overnight, years of close contact between GKN and the DTI were broken. The Government appeared to blow cold on its previous enthusiasm for creating a strong British motor components industry, possibly to be encouraged with the carrot of Government aid for restructuring.

Sir Trevor says that if the merger does not go through it

could have potentially disastrous consequences for the British industry. He is adamant that unless the proposed force in engine parts which would be created by marrying AE's piston technology with GKN's transmission, axles and marketing skills, one of the companies will eventually die.

"The UK as a market place cannot afford to have too many of anything," he says. "The whole of the US has only two bearings manufacturers."

However, AE has found that there is still considerable hostility among motor manufacturers to the idea of creating a new force in component supply. Mr John Collyear, chairman of AE, estimates that Britain's share of the engine-bearings business in continental Europe would fall from 90 per cent to 60 per cent if the merger went through, as motor manufacturers avoided dependence upon one supplier.

His decision to mount a stiff defence against the takeover after agreeing to a merger with GKN before the hostile takeover of the motor industry was announced has already forced AE to question its own strategy and claim that it is not a "pure" technology company.

AE's bid for the takeover has been under investigation since last month when the DTI announced that it was investigating the proposed takeover of AE by GKN.

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STC names main board newcomers

Standard Telephones and Cables: Mr John Cottrell, managing director of STC Telecommunications, and Mr Jim Uterson, managing director of STC Communications International, have joined the main board.

Holt Lloyd: Mr C. R. Hunt has resigned from the board of Holt Lloyd International but joins the board of Holt Lloyd Ltd, the group's main British subsidiary next Monday, as director in charge of product distribution and administration.

Pork Farms: Mr Mike Wyatt is now sales and marketing director. Frizzell Group: Mr K. B. Ohlson, managing director and chief executive of F. Bolton (Holdings), has joined the board.



Mr Colin Storms (above) has joined the board of Guinness as personal director.

Rank Hovis McDougall: Mr Patrick Best has become a non-executive director. W. S. Atkins Group: Mr Joe Vincent has joined the board of Atkins Inspection Services and Mr Graham Law the board of Atkins Laboratories.

Associated Newspapers: Group Major-General P. Blunt becomes a director. Dobson Park Industries: Following the acquisition of British Ltd, Mr G. J. Chibbett has been appointed chairman of that company. The previous chairman, Mr J. H. Thake, remains on the board in a consultative capacity. Mr Peter Lamb continues as managing director.

Anglo Nordic Holdings: Mr Tony Bell, director and general manager of Standen Engineering, is appointed managing

director of Standen. At Leonard Mansley, Mr Keith Longley, director and general manager, is made managing director. At Bowler Brothers (Clitheroe), Mr Chris Gregory, sales and marketing manager, becomes sales and marketing director and Ms Maureen Goldsmith, accounts office manager, is appointed administration director.

Beth and Portland Group: Mr G. J. Robinson has joined the board. Gill & Duffus Group: Mr John Barnes, a director, has been made deputy chief executive on his retirement in June. Mr Wintrop Wyman has joined the board, responsible for group activities in the US. J. W. Spear & Sons: Mr Cyril J. Jones has been appointed a director.

Commercial Union 12 MONTHS REVIEW to 31st December 1983

The Board announces an unaudited operating profit before taxation for 1983 of £9.3m (1982 £21.5m). This result is after making a special provision of \$50m (£34.5m) and a reinsurance arrangement in the United States described below which we consider prudent in view of contingencies that may arise in the present uncertain conditions there. The results reported in sterling were £10.3m less than they would otherwise have been because of changes in exchange rates.

Adverse weather affected most major territories and a break-even result was produced in the last quarter before the impact of the special provision in the United States.

There continues to be substantial potential for improvement in our results arising from all the remedial action that has been taken in the last two years.

Allowing for taxation (which reflects releases from prior year provisions) and minorities and taking account of realised investment gains, the profit attributable to shareholders was £22.0m (1982 £24.6m, before the balance of life profits 1979/81 and reorganisation costs amounting in total to £15.3m).

	1983	1982
Premium income		
Life	400.8	370.1
Non-life	1,884.2	1,808.0
	2,285.0	2,178.1

	1983	1982
United States	128.8	128.8
United Kingdom	39.4	39.4
Netherlands	25.7	25.7
Canada	22.1	22.1
Rest of the World	119.9	119.9
	226.9	226.9

The published profit and loss account will be presented to show overall investment gains after taxation, and to include realised investment gains (shown above) as part of the profit attributable to shareholders. Additionally, in the Netherlands all investment income earned on shareholders' funds in the life company is now reported under life profits, whereas previously it was included with investment income. The effect of this change is to increase life profits and reduce investment income by £8.5m, with 1982 being adjusted accordingly by £7.4m.

Premium income: World-wide non-life premium income in sterling terms increased by 4% (1982 19%). However, after allowing for the effect of changes in rates of exchange, premiums were slightly lower than in 1982 (1982 growth 8%). Competition in non-life insurance remained intense.

Investment income: Investment income net of loan interest increased by 27% (1982 27%). After allowing for the effect of changes in rates of exchange, the underlying increase was 2% (1982 16%).

United States: In the United States, non-life premiums rose 11% in the local currency (1982 increase 8%), reflecting the loss of business resulting from the implementation of strict underwriting standards. The statutory operating ratio was 104% (1982 102%).

Commercial lines experience continued to be adverse, but positive lines showed improved experience.

As well as making direct additions to provisions for outstanding claims in 1983 we have further strengthened our position by means of a reinsurance arrangement. We have bought aggregate excess of loss reinsurance cover of \$200m at a cost of \$98m, which has enabled us to increase the provision for outstanding claims by \$100m. This reinsurance, the cover which has been charged to incurred claims, has had no effect on 1983 earnings but future investment income will be reduced because the cash paid at the end of 1983 for reinsurance cover has reduced invested funds. Including this \$100m and the \$50m referred to above, the total amounts available to cover claims development in the United States have effectively been increased by \$250m in 1983, a year in which premium income fell by 8%.

United Kingdom: In the United Kingdom, adverse trading conditions due to excess market trading continued. The deteriorating experience in the commercial classes was arrested in 1983, but the early promise of an improvement in the domestic classes, based on mild weather in the first part of 1983, was not sustained partly as a result of adverse weather later in the year. Non-life premium growth was 9% (1982 16%).

Netherlands: In the Netherlands, the overall result was satisfactory but a deterioration in the underwriting result occurred in most of the

periods reported. These were as follows:

	1983	1982
United States	\$1.45	\$1.62
Netherlands	\$14.45	\$14.26
Canada	\$1.80	\$2.00

This announcement does not constitute full accounts for the year. Copies of the full accounts, which have not yet been reported upon by the Auditors, will be circulated to shareholders on 22 March 1984 and delivered to the Registrar of Companies after approval at the Annual General Meeting which will be held on 16 April 1984.

Commercial Union
Assurance Company plc

ICI in 1983 Good profits recovery-dividend up

The Board of Directors of Imperial Chemical Industries PLC announces the following trading results of the Group for the year 1983 subject to completion of the audit, with comparative figures for 1982

ICI Group financial highlights

Group means ICI and its subsidiaries. £m means millions of pounds sterling.

	1983	1982
£m	£m	
Sales to customers outside the Group		
Chemicals - UK	2,184	2,030
- overseas	5,264	4,402
Oil	808	926
Total turnover	8,256	7,358
Trading profit	693	366
Profit before taxation	619	259
Net profit attributable to parent company, before extraordinary items	397	145
Earnings (before extraordinary items) per £1 Ordinary Stock	65.3p	24.2p
Dividends per £1 Ordinary Stock	24.0p	19.0p

Trading results for the first quarter of 1984 will be announced on Thursday 26 April 1984.



Imperial Chemical Industries PLC

THE SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE SOCIETY

100 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 8JH

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 101st Annual General Meeting of the Members of The Scottish Mutual Assurance Society will be held in the Central Hotel, Gordon Street, Glasgow, on Wednesday 21st March 1984 at 12.15 p.m. to approve the Accounts, Balance Sheet and Reports of the Directors and Auditors, to re-elect Directors and to fix the remuneration of the Auditors. Prints of the Society's Annual Accounts and Balance Sheet and Directors' Report can be obtained by Members at the Head Office of the Society or at any of its Branch Offices. A Member of the Society entitled to attend and vote at any General Meeting is entitled to appoint another person (who need not be a Member of the Society) to attend and vote instead of him. Proxies must be lodged at the Head Office of the Society not less than 48 hours before the time for holding the Meeting. The attention of Members wishing to attend is drawn to Regulations 5, 22 and 24 of The Scottish Mutual Assurance Society Act 1962.

By Order of the Board,
W. MCCORMICK, Secretary.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9%
Barclays	9%
BCCI	9%
Citibank Savings	110%
Consolidated Crds	9%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co	9%
Lloyds Bank	9%
Midland Bank	9%
Nat Westminster	9%
TSB	9%
Williams & Glyn's	9%

† Mortgage Base Rate.
* 7 day deposits on rates of interest: £10,000, 9%; £25,000 up to £50,000, 9%; £50,000 and over, 10%.

**Times Newspapers Ltd.,
Classified Advertisement Department,
Freepost,
London WC1 8BR.**

Ryan's Son, now 16, could find Los Angeles to his liking

A legendary partnership that could scale Olympic heights

"They say it is not the winning but the taking part that counts but, if I go to the Games, I want to win," John Whitaker makes no bones about the Olympic ideal. At 28 he is the most experienced rider on Britain's Olympic showjumping shortlist and, because he hopes to turn professional at the end of the year, this will be his last attempt to gain an Olympic medal, "the greatest thing a rider can do."

At the moment he and his younger brother, Michael, are in the middle of a £60,000 sponsorship with Next Collectables. The contract is for a year and the package has been put together by the British Equestrian Federation so that it does not endanger the brothers' amateur status. Such are the anomalies of Olympic eligibility that, in completing his most successful year Whitaker not only became the European individual silver medal winner but also finished top of the international money winners' table as well as of the combined national and international tables. Yesterday, in recognition of his outstanding year, he received the Martini Award for showjumping which is presented annually to the year's top personality in equestrian sports.

Strangely, even taking part at the Olympics has eluded Whitaker so far. He has twice before been shortlisted, but in 1976 he was dropped when Ryan's Son refused at the final trial, and in 1980 there was the boycott of the Moscow Olympics. "Everything was right for that year (1980). We were all set and Ryan was just the right age". Now it is touch and go.

Ryan's Son is 16 and, although the legendary partnership shows no sign of ending, Whitaker is undecided as to whether Ryan's Son should be made available for the Olympics. "He has been to finish him off. I don't want to finish him in one go". The fears are understandable. The last three Olympic courses have been exceptionally big - as was that for the world championships at Dublin in 1982 - and big tracks take their toll on horses.

The Los Angeles course is thought to be tricky rather than big and that, as Ronnie Massarella, the British *chef d'équipe*, pointed out, means that "Of all the possible Olympic horses Ryan's Son could be the one most suited technically to the course". He is a veteran of more than 30 Nations Cup events and the most consistent horse to have appeared - and stayed - on the international scene in the last decade. He is also the most popular. His broad white blaze, kindly eye and indomitable spirit have made him the darling of the showjumping world. The admiration is mutual. Ryan's Son's celebrated kick-back after jumping the last fence is his acknowledgement to the crowds he loves. "He's showing off really" Whitaker says. "When the crowd claps he knows he's done well and gives a buck". Whitaker's modesty obscures an essential ingredient

in the horse's success. Massarella restores the perspective. "Ryan's Son is one of the best the world's ever produced, but then he's ridden so well.... John is the most level-headed chap for the (Olympic) job. He has the hair, the magic, the guts, the knowledge and all the capabilities in the world."

It is Whitaker's quiet, stylish riding, allied with a ruthless determination to succeed, that makes him an invaluable member of any team. He weighs only 10 stone and has the lightest of hands. To watch him in the ring is to see showjumping at its gentlest but most effective.

The eldest of four brothers he was brought up on a 150-acre farm at Outland near Huddersfield. He started at five on the family's old milk pony. Early lessons came from his mother, then the Rockwood Harriers Pony Club. The only other formal instruction he has received was on a three-day course with Dick Stillwell, the British Show Jumping Association's top instructor.

Whitaker inherits the will to win from his mother, Enid. "She is the perfectionist. Mrs Whitaker has started a small riding school to help make the ponies pay their way and gradually the young Whitaker got more rides as local people, admiring his skill, asked if he would ride for them. But there were no thoughts of making riding his career.

Whitaker's father, Donald, decided to buy a promising



Olympic hopefuls: John Whitaker on Ryan's Son

Whitaker started riding Ryan's Son around June. By October he was Grade B. The following year he quickly climbed to Grade A. The turning point was the Great Yorkshire Show. Whitaker had entered Singing Wind and Ryan's Son. He won the first class with Ryan's Son, beating all the top names, and the next class he won with Singing Wind.

Ryan's Son's schedule that year had been specifically directed. The chosen team was Harvey Smith, David Broome, Nick Skelton and Malcolm Pirah. General Sir Cecil Blacker, chairman of the selection committee, admits that it had been an extremely difficult decision to decide on the four. "We discussed it for hours and in the end we went for what we knew was a winning combination" (the four had just returned from a glorious victory in the Nations Cup in Paris).

Barely two weeks after the team was announced Whitaker was called upon after all. His determination to succeed was never greater. He and Ryan's Son finished with the individual silver medal as well as helping the team to silver. The following month he won an even greater reward, the £14,000 first prize in the British Jumping Derby.

Whitaker's victories are not all due to Ryan's Son. Last year he enjoyed success with a variety of Grade A horses including Blue Moon, Charlie's Angel and Noviltetro, an Andalusian stallion on whom he won £8,316.

He has high hopes of a South-African bred horse which has recently joined the yard. Before that, however, higher hopes still may rest upon another - no novice but a woolly-looking horse in a New Zealand rug which I saw grazing in a small walled field in beside the Whitaker's Yorkshire farm-house. The broad white blaze revealed his identity. Ryan's Son, enjoying a well-deserved rest from the rigours of the circuit, carried on munching the grass as we approached blissfully unaware of his master's current dilemma - a dilemma which at present is merely taking part.

Jenny MacArthur

Scholarship for Miss Schwerd

Polly Schwerd, aged 20, from Devon has won the Martini scholarship, an annual award to help promising young riders. She finished eighth at Badminton and was crowned this by taking the team and individual bronze medals at the European Young Riders championships in September. Dylan II is only 15 hands high and was originally bought for Miss Schwerd to take to Pony Club events.

The Martini Awards are decided annually by the vote of readers of *Horse and Rider*, *Pony* and the *Topic* group of regional magazines. Jilly Cooper, who is writing a novel based on the horse world, presented riders with their awards.

WINNERS: Showjumping John Whitaker, Horse Wales; Lucinda Green, Dressage; Jennie Loriston-Clarke, Showing; Vin Toulson, Driving; Christine Dick, Point to Point; Jennie Pidgeon, Topic trophy for the Midlands and North; Christopher Barre.

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Tour operators avoid France

By John Witherow and John Lawless

The world's biggest traffic jam in France threatened to cause long delays for thousands of British holidaymakers this weekend. Coach operators have spoken of tourists being forced to make unscheduled overnight stops and one travel company was planning to send passengers home by air and train to avoid the lorry drivers' blockades.

There were signs, however, that plans to evacuate some trapped British drivers by coach from the French Alps may be overtaken by events. Reports last night suggested that the Swiss could be allowing smaller lorries to escape the blockades in the Mont Blanc area, thus easing the pressure for drivers to be flown home from Milan.

The Bus and Coach Council said about 10,000 British holidaymakers would be travelling through France by coach this weekend. On average most coach journeys have been delayed only a few hours but some schoolboys from Barnet, London, took two days to reach L'Armenie, close to the Italian frontier.

Most travel companies have avoided the worst jams and are either going round France or taking minor roads. Schools Abroad, which has about 3,000

children on holiday in France during the half-term break, said the Bus and Coach Council said it had made emergency permits available so that coaches unable to use the main French ports could drive to Belgium and West Germany for ferry crossings.

"Emergency supplies", including chocolate bars, were being delivered to the 150 trapped British drivers in the Mont Blanc region. Leyland Trucks was sending out warm clothing and food and Tesco 100 sleeping bags. Food, wine and whisky was also sent from a Trust House Forte hotel in Geneva.

Patricia Clough writes: "We are very worried," said Mrs Linda Hyde, a teacher with a party of 29 children from St. Austell, all of whose parents had paid £216 for a week's skiing in Courmayeur. "We don't know how we are going to get home. We haven't been told a thing."

Miss Fiona Carter, the local agent for Cairngorm Ski Services, Ltd., which has 350 children and teachers, 20 ski instructors and 16 drivers in the area, is planning to send them all back home via Switzerland and Germany.



No through road: The Brenner Pass border crossing between Austria and Italy blocked by lorries yesterday.

£160 offered to all trapped drivers

Continued from page 1

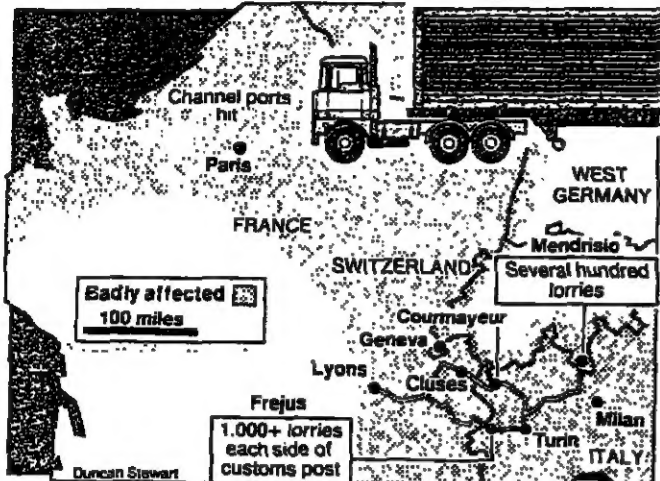
the question of using coercive measures to clear the blockades had not been discussed.

"I consider it to be my duty not to set one part of the country against another," M. Delors commented. Although there are reports of increasing irritation and anger by road users against the lorry drivers, a poll published yesterday indicated that 54 per cent of the general public approved of the demonstrations and 67 per cent thought the drivers demanded justified.

M. Delors claimed that despite the blockades, which numbered well over 200 at midday yesterday, it was still possible for drivers to go wherever they wanted anywhere in the country, by dint of using detours.

Information about which could be obtained from the prefecture in each department. Alternative routes had already been signposted in many areas, he said.

For the moment, the government is playing for time, hoping that the drivers will soon weary of the dispute. Many have been in the freezing cold sleeping rough in their lorries for the past nine days. Already there are signs of divisions among



those who feel they have got what they originally asked for and a smaller hard core who want to press on for more.

● **LONDON:** The French government would be prepared to use the army to clear roads of the blockades, but only as a last resort, Mme Edith Cresson, the French Foreign Trade Minister, said in London yesterday. "Police are absolutely unable to drag out lorries of 30 or 40 tonnes," she said.

Mme Cresson claimed, how-

was the original cause of the dispute. The Ministry of Finance guaranteed an increase in the number of customs officials, flexible working and better pay.

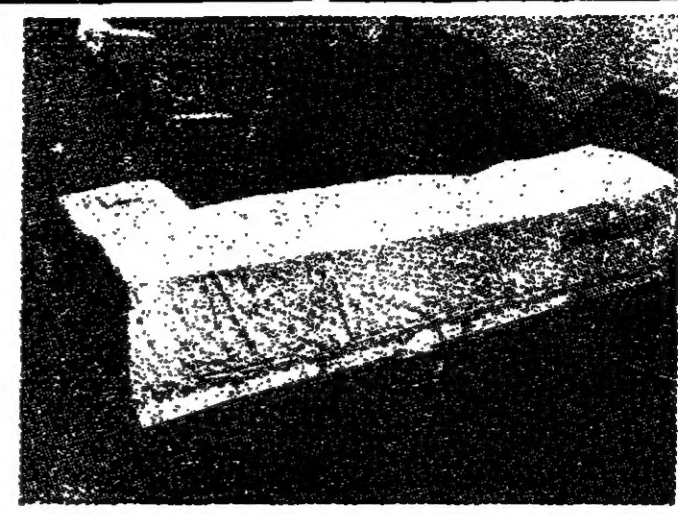
● **BRUSSELS:** The European Commission yesterday called on the Italian Government to take every necessary step to ensure that customs clearance along its borders was re-established fully and quickly to ensure that free circulation of goods was possible.

The Commission said that if its proposals on frontier controls had been adopted more quickly none of the present problems would have arisen.

● **BONN:** Traffic jams of up to 15 miles built up on the German motorways leading to the Austrian frontier after Austria closed its borders to German lorries yesterday.

● **AMSTERDAM:** A spectacular plan to rescue drivers stranded in the Alps was abandoned yesterday after an apparent lack of enthusiasm on the part of the drivers to be evacuated.

● **VIENNA:** The Brenner and several other Austrian frontier posts were blocked by lorry drivers yesterday.



Birmingham blockade: Mr Charles Aiol, a driver from Paris, with police yesterday (left) after unintentionally bringing a French blockade to Birmingham. Trying to reverse his 40-ton lorry in a city centre side street (above) he wedged the vehicle between a wall and a lamp-post, which had to be removed by council workmen - to the cost of his employers, M. Aiol, aged 27, said: "When I return to Le Havre I will probably be stuck again, but I am in solidarity with my colleagues."

Frank Johnson in New Hampshire

Toxic waste but no decadence

New Hampshire revealed itself as a wintry paradise of sparkling air, resourceful citizenry, pine forests and glistening lakes; the antithesis, in every way, of urban decadence. A man could go steadily mad.

The nearest outpost of refreshing urban decadence was Boston, Mass., where we had awakened that morning to the strains of breakfast television interviewing a collection of young people on the pressures and tensions of being the children of the Democratic candidates up in New Hampshire. Also there had been a Boston Herald headline warning: "Gay voters start to use muscle."

Miss McGovern, the daughter of the candidate, Mr McGovern, and Miss Hart, the daughter of the candidate, Mr Hart, talked frankly about pressures and tensions. For the foreign visitor, this was absorbing until three more breakfast television items in Boston, and most items seen on Boston television beamed to New Hampshire, persuaded him that most of American television consists of women talking frankly about pressures and tensions.

The earnest tone was to be found as well in the advertisements which interrupted the news and were sometimes in the form of interviews scarcely dissimilar from those with the candidate in the news itself.

One moment in the evening Mr Mondale was being questioned about whether, going into the New Hampshire primary, Mr Hart was perceived to have momentum. The next moment a woman was being interviewed who had used Dulcolax, a particularly determined laxative, on behalf of which this was an advertisement. "How fast does it work?" inquired the interviewer, sparing us nothing. "Very," she replied grimly.

Mercifully, it was to Mr Hart's rather than to her momentum, to which we then returned.

That morning all the candidates' offsprings had agreed that, in the end, the pressures and tensions were worthwhile. Their father simply had to save the republic. After all, "the country had become so repressive under Reagan," said Miss McGovern. Though one of her impressions of Boston as a city entirely made up of a contented populace slurping the magnificent New England clam chowder did not provide any evidence of this Reagan Terror.

Mr Hart's problem was maintaining his momentum. There was thus an identity of interest between the people of Old Auburn Road and Mr Hart. Awaited by 50 people from television, he arrived in Old Auburn Road and expressed concern about the toxic waste.

At this stage it was unclear whether Mr Hart would ever be president so the television people could afford to be disrespectful to his staff. Mr Hart disappeared into No 103, the home of a family with the Quebecois-sounding name of Provencel, pronounced, in these parts, Provenkel.

"I'd like you to form a semicircle in front of him when he comes out of the Provencels and walks down to the toxic waste," said a staff man to the television horde.

Television man: "So what?" Well, he did not want too many television people to be actually in the picture. He just wanted to be seen with voters as he walked down the street.

"Won't that make your candidate look rather lonely?" inquired another television man.

Mr Hart emerged, and we all started moving backwards down the street until we reached the toxic waste, at which point half of us fled.

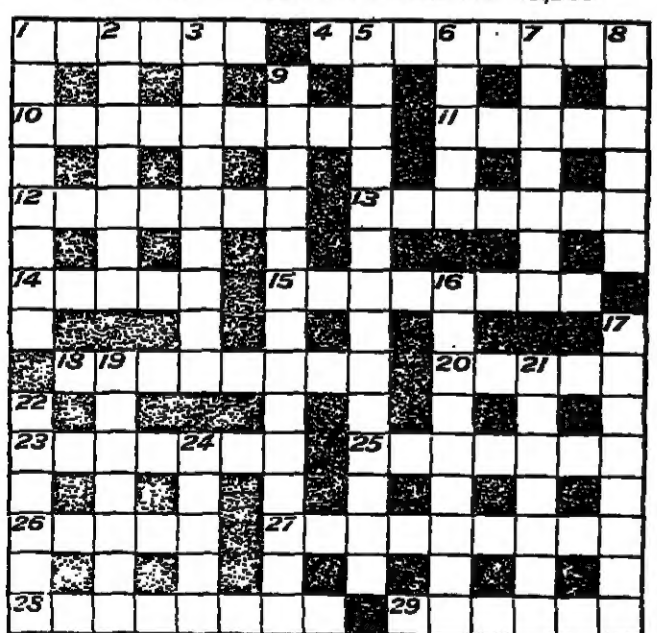
THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Variety Club Women of the Year dinner at the Queens Hotel, Leeds, 6.30.

Royal engagements
The Duke of Edinburgh undertakes engagements in Fife, Leith and Bradford; visits John Smith Brewery, Tadcaster, 10.05; followed by Killingbeck Hospital, Leeds, 11.45 and then visits Rose Torgrave Limited, Leeds, 1.30; later His Royal Highness visits Lucas Aerospace Electrical Division factory, Bradford, 3.15. In the evening His Royal Highness attends the

The Times Crossword Puzzle No. 16,363



- ACROSS
- 1 A vote on the other side (6).
 - 4 Forward a reasonable claim (8).
 - 10 Soldier about to return with old rander (9).
 - 11 Not at all specialised skill, say (5).
 - 12 Soldiers, with a drunk around, getting food (7).
 - 13 Phantom hero in eternity (17).
 - 14 Bird makes a dog lose its head (5).
 - 15 Hit back about one lad making curses (8).
 - 18 Nests are made into silky stuff (8).
 - 20 Jab, let's say, and pester in return (5).
 - 23 As a feeder, before noon - no Scotch (7).
 - 25 Speed around a short distance, going easily (7).
 - 26 Man, briefly, dealing with a misanthrope (5).
 - 27 Disorderly - not even abnormal (9).
 - 28 Particular point with honours (8).
 - 29 How to stand a soccer team (6).
- DOWN
- 1 Beginning to take a chance with the letters (8).
 - 2 Sniffing at a guard (7).
 - 3 Hush - outbreak of measles, and not a modest one (9).
 - 5 Walter's lot, more adaptable as coast-guards (6,6).
 - 6 Admitted being had (5).
 - 7 Disposition of the army: see - hence chaos about (7).
 - 8 Drawing to wound (6).
 - 9 Squire's journeyman (14).
 - 16 Master Pistol, a jocularly familiar lad (3,2,1,3).
 - 17 Bust made descriptively impossible (8).
 - 19 Diana going Greek (7).
 - 21 Girl rising - leave a drop (7).
 - 22 Direction briefly repeated with River Festival (6).
 - 24 For the moment there's nobody round about (5).

Solution of Puzzle No. 16,362



Prize Crossword in The Times tomorrow
CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 8

North Bromsgrove High School

Concert by the Bournemouth Sinfonietta with Jean-Bernard Pommeroy, Guildhall, Southampton, 8.

Recital by Marillion, St David's Hall, Cardiff, 7.30.

Lectures

Dinosaurs in Sky - extinction related to granite intrusions? by Dr John David-Bell; Bostel Hall, University College, Oxford, 8.30.

General

Clarinet masterpiece with Angela Malsbury, Holburne Museum, Bath, 7.30.

Forthcoming exhibition

The British Museum announces that its exhibition of Buddhist Art of Central Asia from the Stein Collection will open on March 1. Mon to Sat 10.5-5.30. Sun 10.5-5.30. The exhibition is a talk with sign language interpretation for the deaf, on "Greek Sculpture of the 4th century BC", 11.30 by M. Lytton.

Exhibitions in progress

Mind over matter, an exhibition of sculpture, Cartwright Hall, Lister Park, Bradford, Tues to Sun 10 to 5, closed Mon, tends March 11.

Photographs, pen and ink illustrations and painting by Stuart Ros, Chelmsford and Essex Museum, Oaklands Park, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, tends March 25.

Warp, weft and twine, an exhibition of varied approaches to weaving, Usher Gallery, Lincum Road, Lincoln; Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 2.30 to 5, tends March 11.

Shopping Motif

The Millburngate Shopping Centre in Durham City is to feature on a 20p postage stamp as part of a set of four stamps on the subject of Urban Renewal, to be issued by the Post Office on April 10. To complement Durham City Council is producing a four colour illustrated first day cover. Profits being donated to the Mayor of Durham's Charities Appeal Fund, in aid of a vehicle for disabled people at Hythen House, Durham.

Anniversaries

Births: Charles le Brun, painter, Paris, 1619; Winston Homer, painter, Boston, Massachusetts, 1830; George Moore, novelist, Ballyglass, Co Mayo, 1852; Sir Alexander Bustamante, Prime Minister of Jamaica, 1962-67.

Deaths: Henry Cavendish, physicist, London, 1810; Robert Fulton, inventor and pioneer of steamships, New York, 1815; Thomas Bowdler, physician and editor of the Family Shakespeare ("without the blemishes"), Rhydolfa, near Swansea, 1823. Today is the Feast of Saint Matthias, the Apostle chosen to fill the place of Judas Iscariot (Acts 1, 23-26). There is no other mention of Matthias in the New Testament. Traditionally he is said to have been martyred at Colchis.

Food prices

Home-grown potatoes are up a penny a pound this week and after the grim warnings from potato growers in the early autumn this small price rise will not come as a shock. Potatoes are 13p to 15p a lb. King Edwards and Cara 14p to 15p. Cyprus potatoes are also up by about 3p a lb. English, Dutch and Polish onions show a slight increase at 13p to 20p a lb. but large Spanish, at 20p to 23p a lb, are unchanged. Brussels sprouts, finishing next month, are good quality at 20p to 30p a lb. Cauliflower at 45p to 65p each is excellent, particularly the Britany Price.

English Cows and French golden

delicious at 30 to 48 and 22p to 35p a lb respectively, are best apple buys this week. Look out for blood oranges, 6p to 12p each, among the many excellent citrus fruit.

Good supplies of British beef

ensure stable prices at present: topside and silverside range from £1.96 to £2.34 and boneless brisket from £1.30 to £1.68 a lb. Many shops continue their special promotions on beef, for example Sainsbury topside and silverside at £1.89 a lb, sewing beef at £1.24p a lb and fresh mince 99p a lb. Dewhurst are offering whole New Zealand lambs from £19.50 (6pp) a lb; sides from £10.27 (73p a lb); lamb chops at 89p a lb and five-pound packs for £4. Marks & Spencer, one of the few outlets to stock chilled New Zealand lamb, are reducing all cuts by 20p a lb from Sat Feb 25. Slight increases in pork prices are expected but should not affect prices in the shops just yet.

Salicyls have Danish boneless

chops, down 40p a lb to 1.59 and whole legs down 20p a lb to 79p a lb. All Marks & Spencer chickens will be down to 69p a lb from Saturday.

The pound

	Bank	Bank	Bank
	Buys	Sells	Sells
Australia \$	1.61	1.53	
Austria Sch	28.45	26.85	
Belgium Fr	85.00	81.00	
Canada \$	1.27	1.20	
Denmark Kr	14.65	13.95	
Finland Mk	8.66	8.26	
France Fr	12.25	11.75	
Germany DM	3.99	3.81	
Greece Dr	164.00	154.00	
Hong Kong \$	11.60	11.00	
Ireland Ir	2465.00	2365.00	
Italy Lira	354.00	338.00	
Netherlands Gld	4.52	4.30	
Norway Kr	11.56	10.96	
Portugal Esc	199.00	189.00	
South Africa Rd	1.96	1.82	
Spain Pta	227.00	218.00	
Sweden Kr	11.98	11.38	
Switzerland Fr	3.20	3.13	
USA \$	1.50	1.45	
Yugoslavia Dnr	212.00	202.00	

Rates for small denominations bank notes only, as supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd.

Retail Price Index: 342.6

London: The FT index closed down 9.5 at 806.9

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on private Member's motion on deontocratic rights and living standards of Londoners.

Lords (11): Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons (Amendment) (No 2) Bill, committee.

Roads

Wales on West: A48: Traffic control in Pwllmeryr Hill, Chepstow, Gwent; temporary traffic signals 24 hours a day. A4: Temporary signals controlling traffic in Charlotte Street, Bath. Avon. M4: Lane closures for bridge inspection and repairs between junction 21 and junction 23 across Severn Bridge. Both carriageways affected: off-peak overnight closures.

Midlands: A14: Lane closures in Huntingdon by-pass. A45: Lane closures on Cambridge by-pass. A66: Leicester - Derby road at Kegworth closed; diversion. A131: Delays at Sudbury.

North: A61: West Yorkshire narrow at junction of Marsh Way, Northgate roundabout. A6120: Single-lane traffic in Leeds Outer Ring Road at junction with Spence Lane. Leeds. A61: Traffic lights at Worsworth level crossing. A6120: Single-lane traffic in Leeds Outer Ring Road at junction with Spence Lane. Leeds. A61: Traffic lights at Worsworth level crossing.

South: A9: Single-lane traffic in Causeway Road, Stirling. A977: Single-lane between Gartlove (B910) and Forest Mill, Stirlingshire. A81: Constrictor Road west of Balgownie Road, Edinburgh. Lothian. Excavations, restrictions.

Information supplied by the AA.

Snow reports

The Times snow reports appear today on page 26.

The papers

The Daily Star asks what is the price of a child's life? "How about £1,500 plus £495 for funeral and other expenses? That is what Dr Luitkumar Nirmal offered the parents of Gareth Freeman, aged 22 months, and Shaun Phillips, aged 18 months, who died of bronchial pneumonia for which he had been prescribed cough medicine. Shaun died from gastro-enteritis after Dr Nirmal declined to send him to hospital. The £4,000 out-of-court settlement has been agreed with the parents without Dr Nirmal admitting any liability. The paper says it is what lawyers might call "the going rate" - what a court might award to the parents of a child run over by a careless driver, for instance. "That is a fact of legal life deplorable as it might seem. It is also the full price which Dr Nirmal has to pay. For last month he was severely 'admonished' by the General Medical Council, which decided to take no further action.

Top films

Top box office films in London:
1) Scrooge
2) Under Fire
3) Trading Places
4) Two of a Kind
5) The Secret of the Stone
7) The Godfather
9) Never Say Never again
10) The Honorary Consul
Top five in the provinces:
1) Scrooge
2) Under Fire
3) Trading Places
4) The Godfather
5) Never Say Never again

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temperature of 50°F at 11.15. Lowest day temperature of 34°F at 5.15. Highest night temperature of 34°F at 1.15. Lowest night temperature of 28°F at 5.15.

London

Yesterday: Tonic max 6.0 to 6.5 pm, SC 1417; min 6.0 to 6.5 pm, SC 1417; max 6.0 to 6.5 pm, SC 1417; min 6.0 to 6.5 pm, SC 1417.

Times Newspapers Limited

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Weather forecast

A ridge of high pressure covers much of England and Wales, but a shallow trough of low pressure will cross Scotland during the day.

6 am to midnight

London, central S England, E. W Midlands: Mainly cloudy, some bright intervals, isolated wintry showers; wind NE light or moderate; max temp 5C (41F).

E. central N England, East Angles: Mainly cloudy, a little rain or sleet at times, perhaps snow in places; wind NE moderate or fresh; max temp 4C (39F).

S. Wales, NW. N. England: Mainly dry, bright or sunny intervals, any fog patches slowly dissipating; wind NE light or moderate, max temp 5C (41F) - 4C (39F).

Lake District, Isle of Man, Border: Becoming cloudy, outbreaks of rain, perhaps preceded by sleet or snow, wind variable becoming SW light; max temp 6C (43F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday, becoming drier in NW, otherwise little change.

Sea passages: S North Sea, Straits of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind NE fresh or strong, isolated showers; sea moderate or rough. St Georges Channel, Irish Sea: Wind variable light; sea smooth.

Lighting-up time

London: 6.01 pm to 6.26 am. Bristol: 6.10 pm to 6.26 am. Edinburgh: 6.05 pm to 6.48 am. Manchester: 6.05 pm to 6.38 am. Newcastle: 6.24 pm to 6.48 am.

Temperatures at yesterday c. cloud, d. drizzle, f. fog, g. rain, s. snow, sh. shower.

temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; snow; ss, sun.					
	C	F		C	F
Belfast	1	6	Guernsey	1	6
Birmingham	3	37	Isle of Man	1	6
Bristol	3	51	Jersey	1	6
Cardiff	4	39	London	4	39
Edinburgh	5	41	Manchester	4	39
Glasgow	4	38	Newcastle	4	39

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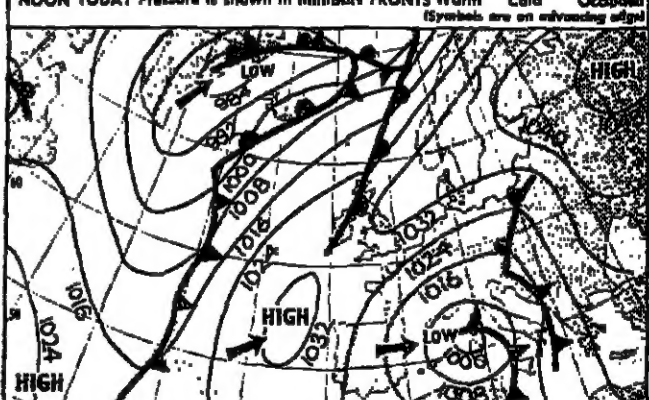
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NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded



High tides

	AM	MT	PM	HT
London Bridge	12.05	12.27	12.27	10.1
Abbeville	12.05	12.27	12.27	10.1
Amble	12.05	12.27	12.27	10.1
Amble	12.05	12.27	12.27	10.1
Amble	12.05	12.27	12.27	10.1

NOON TODAY

	AM	MT	PM	HT
London Bridge	12.05	12.27	12.27	10.1
Abbeville	12.05	12.27	12.27	10.1
Amble	12.05	12.27	12.27	10.1
Amble	12.05	12.27	12.27	10.1
Amble	12.05	12.27	12.27	10.1

Around Britain

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
carbons	08	-	5	41	Cloudy			Guernsey	3.0	-	5	43	Dull	
carbons	14	01	3	41	Cloudy			Scilly Isles	3.0	01	9	48	Bright	
weather								Norway	1.00	0	8	48	Bright	
weather			5	41	Cloudy			Wiltshire						
weather			5	41	Cloudy			Tenby	6.5	01	7	45	Surry	
weather			5	43	Cloudy			Seaford			5	43	Cloudy	
weather	10	09	7	45	Drizzle			Morcombe	0.8	01	5	41	Cloudy	
weather	10	13	6	45	Drizzle			Weymouth	0.8	01	5	41	Cloudy	
weather	04	31	7	45	Rain			London (City)	-	12	5	41	Cloudy	
weather	03	-	11	5	Cloudy			St Paul (Azt)	-	02	3	37	Rain	
weather	1.6	11	6	45	Cloudy			St Paul (Azt)	-	02	3	37	Rain	
weather	1.6	11	6	45	Cloudy			Cardiff (City)	0.6	-	6	43	Cloudy	
weather	2.0	13	7	45	Cloudy			Anglesey	1.6	-	6	43	Cloudy	
weather	2.0	13	7	45	Cloudy			Anglesey	1.6	-	6	43	Cloudy	
weather	3.1	08	7	45	Cloudy			Manchester	0.1	02	5	41	Cloudy	
weather	3.1	08	7	45	Cloudy			Nottingham	-	02	3	37	Drizzle	
weather	1.4	07	6	43	Cloudy			N York City	-	02	3	37	Drizzle	
weather	4.7	06	6	43	Cloudy			Cardiff	0.8	-	6	43	Cloudy	
weather	4.7	06	6	43	Cloudy			Exeter	0.8	-	6	43	Cloudy	
weather	1.3	06	6	43	Cloudy			Exeter	0.8	-	6	43	Cloudy	
weather	1.1	01	6	43	Cloudy			Glasgow	-	5	41	Cloudy		
weather								Trin	0.6	-	7	45	Cloudy	
weather								St Marys	1.2	01	5	41	Bright	
weather	3.8	01	8	46	Bright									
weather	2.4	01	8	46	Showers									